アミュー

毎日漫画を描ける幸せ。
読んでいただけるありがたみ…

めいっっっぱいかみしめつつ
この未熟なキャラたちと共に
成長していければと思います。

楽しんでいただければ幸いです！

ジャンプスクエアH24年9月号～11月号に掲載分を収録。

この音とまれ！1
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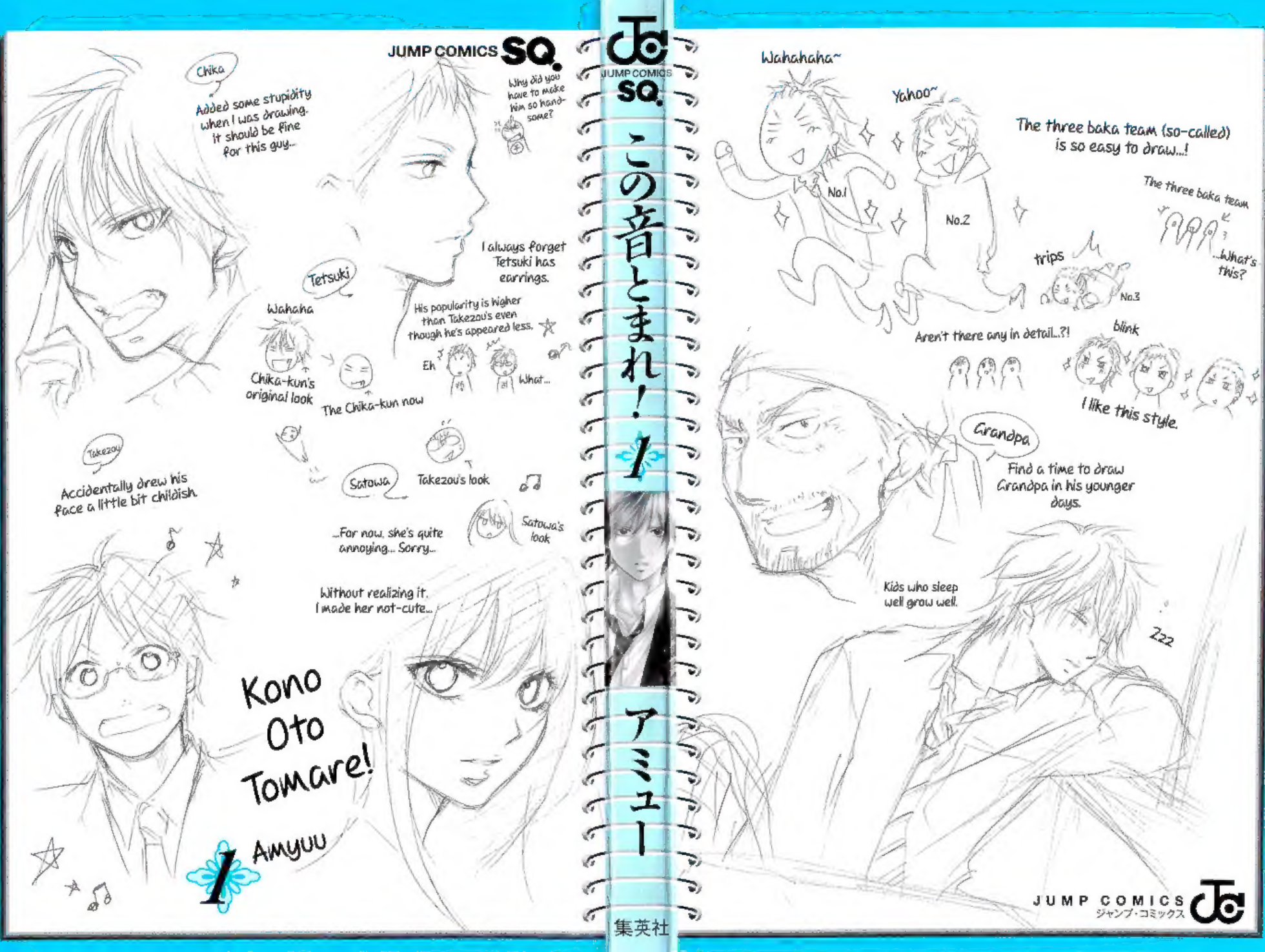
JUMP COMICS ジャンプ・コミックス


JUMP COMICS SQ.
Chika
Added some stupidity when I was drawing. It should be fine for this guy...
Why did you have to make him so handsome?
I always forget Tetsuki has earrings.
Tetsuki
Wahaha
His popularity is higher than Takezou's even though he's appeared less.
Chika-kun's original look
The Chika-kun now
Eh
What...
Takezou
Accidentally drew his face a little bit childish.
Satowa
Takezou's look
Satowa's look
...For now, she's quite annoying... Sorry...
Without realizing it, I made her not-cute...
Kono Oto Tomare!
1
Amyuu
JUMP COMICS SQ.
この音とまれ！ 1
アミュー
集英社
Wahahaha~
Yahoo~
The three baka team (so-called) is so easy to draw...!
No.1
No.2
No.3
trips
The three baka team
...What's this?
Aren't there any in detail..?!
blink
I like this style.
Grandpa
Find a time to draw Grandpa in his younger days.
Kids who sleep well grow well.
ZZZ
JUMP COMICS
ジャンプ・コミックス

JUMP COMICS SQ.

この音とまれ！ 1

アミュー

No.

Date

この音とまれ！

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NO. 1 THE NEW CLUB MEMBER
That place was...
THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST ENJOYABLE YEAR I'VE HAD. THANK YOU.
SEE YOU, TAKE-ZOU.
JEEZ, DON'T CRY SO MUCH.
PLEASE ... TAKE CARE OF THE CLUB...
...to me...

YES
...
...an irreplaceable place...
NO. 1 THE NEW CLUB MEMBER

Kono
Oto
Tomare

noise
noise
THIS IS HORRIBLE.
IT'S TOTALLY DEVASTATED.
AND THE CULPRIT IS HIS OWN GRAND-CHILD?
YES, ACCORDING TO THE EYE-WITNESS...
SFX: RATTLING
JEEZ. IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT MONEY. KIDS THESE DAYS...
CATCH HIM!
HE'S HERE!

April
THAT'S THE END OF MY SPEECH.
AND OF THE SIXTY-THIRD ENTRANCE CEREMONY
WOULD ALL NEWCOMERS PLEASE RETURN TO THEIR CLASS-ROOMS...
T/N: POSTER - KOTO MUSIC CLUB (THE KOTO IS A JAPANESE STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT)
箏曲部
stick
IT'S DONE!
ALL RIGHT!

SFX STOMP
AH.
SO-
SORR...
And then.
W-
WAH!
Hahaha
Really
NEXT IS THE FIRST FLOOR CORRIDOR.
DID I JUST STEP ON SOME-THING?
DON'T WORRY
IT'S JUST "NADESHIKO-CHAN"
AH, IT'S HIM.
A NICKNAME THAT IMPLIES HE'S FEMININE OR WOMANLY
SFX FLUTTER ZX
BY THE WAY THE KOTO CLUB'S STILL AROUND?
I THOUGHT IT'D ALREADY BEEN DIS-BANDED.
HE'S A GUY, BUT HE ACTUALLY JOINED THE KOTO CLUB!
ARE THOSE RECRUITMENT LEAFLETS FOR THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB?

I SEE.
IF NO NEWCOMERS JOIN, THEN THE CLUB WILL HAVE TO BE DISBANDED.
I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT NOW THAT THE SENPAIS HAVE GRADUATED.
AH, NO.
SO ENTHUSIASTIC, KURATA-KUN.
HEADMASTER!
GOOD LUCK.
SO I DON'T WANT IT TO DISAPPEAR EITHER.
ACTUALLY, THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB WAS ESTABLISHED BY ONE OF MY OLD FRIENDS.
IT'S FULL OF MEMORIES.
IT WOULD BE GREAT IF SOME GOOD KIDS JOINED
THANK YOU, HEADMASTER.
TH-
THERE WERE A LOT OF ENERGETIC NEWCOMERS AT THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY

AND THAT'S THE END OF THE INFORMATION SESSION.
TOMORROW
New members... huh..?
sigh
I'M SAYING ...
IS IT REALLY LIKE THAT?
ARE YOU JOKING?
WHY IS THAT KUDOU AT THIS SCHOOL?
BY KUDOU, YOU MEAN KUDOU CHIKA FROM NISHI MIDDLE SCHOOL?
HE CAN HEAR YOU, IDIOT!
HE'S THE ONE WHO WAS INVOLVED IN A CRIME LAST YEAR.
WHY AM I IN THE SAME CLASS AS HIM?

sigh.
部活動
open...
DAMN. IT'S NOT THAT ONE!
THIS ONE'S SO EROTIC.
GO! KILL HIM!
ARGH, JEEZ... USE-LESS GUY.
boom
SFX: GYAHAHAHA

AH, IT'S NADESHIKO-CHAN.
YOU CAME TO OUR OASIS AGAIN.
THIS IS THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB'S CLUB-ROOM,
NOT YOUR.
EH? WHAT? I COULDN'T HEAR YOU.
...
clench
IS-
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO LEAVE...?!
THERE WILL BE NEW STUDENTS COMING TO OBSERVE TODAY!

Shinya sensei

SFX HAH
...
SFX RUSH
BY CLUB, YOU MEAN THIS?
IF THE CLUB IS LIKE THIS...
!!!
DON'T TOUCH THE INSTRU-MENTS!
slide
SFX- BAM
AND THE TEACHERS DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.
THE CLUB-ROOM BECAME LIKE THIS.
Gyahahaha
WOW, I'M ABOUT TO CRY-
"LET'S ENJOY PLAYING THE KOTO!"
HE EVEN PRINTED RECRUIT-MENT LEAF-LETS.
LOOK,
SOME-ONE AS NERDY AS YOU.
NO ONE CARES ABOUT
WHAT, ACTING ALL MIGHTY?
LIKE YOU.
ISN'T SUCH A CLUB JUST USELESS?

"Takezou!"
IT'S AS GOOD AS ABANDONED
JUST GIVE UP.
HAND THIS PLACE OVER TO US SO WE CAN USE IT PROPERLY.
I-
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.
EH?
I...
WON'T ALLOW THE CLUB TO BE DISBANDED.
I PROMISED SENPAI
THAT'S WHY.
I SEE.
?!
IT SOUNDED GREAT WHEN YOU SAID IT
WHAT ARE YOU...
I'LL MAKE YOU GIVE UP, THEN:
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY KOTO ANYMORE.
ST-STOP!
SFX: JERK
SFX: STOMP

Ha...
Eh?
BAM!
Wh-
Wha...
BAS-TARD!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
Wh-What?!
slump

glare
grab
?!
HE'S NISHI MIDDLE SCHOOL'S KUDOU!
H-HEY, STOP IT!
YOU HAVE GUTS.
YOU'RE A FIRST YEAR WHO JUST CAME HERE?!
Uwah, he looks like a bad guy!
!!!
YOU...

SFX GLARE
...the guy who was involved in a crime last year...?!
AH...
I... I remember that Nishi Middle School's Kudou is...
HEY, YOU.
DON'T STAND IN MY WAY.
MOVE.
grab
OKAY! LET'S GO!
YOUR WAY ...
Idiot!
GET GOING!
SFX THROW
Terrible!
HEY.
Y-YES!
EH...
I HAVE BUSINESS IN THERE.
MOVE.
SFX: SLUMP

HEY, CHIKA!
YOU WANT ME TO THROW YOU TOO?
Uwaah...
Eh?
DON'T STAND THERE AND TALK CRAP.
UM.. YOU SAID BUSINESS. THIS IS ..
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
I WASN'T FIGHTING
I SAVED THIS BEAN-SPROUT FROM A GROUP OF GANG-STERS.
RIGHT?
EH?!
Is that so?!
He only said "You're in my way!" or something like that.
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU WOULDN'T FIGHT ANY-MORE?
TETSUKI.
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO ALREADY?
DON'T BE UNREA-SONA-BLE
DON'T JOKE AROUND, YOU BASTARD. ISN'T SHE A BEAUTIFUL SENPAI?
AH? YOU'RE THE ONE?
Y- YES...
stare stare
Uwah.. What's with this guy?
IS THAT TRUE?
UM, SENPAI IS... ...?
I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
AH.. I...

SFX OPEN
Tch
JEEZ IT CAN'T BE HELPED
HERE.
tap
EH?
WAIT, UM. THIS IS THE CLUB-ROOM.
walks in
I GET IT
I'M...
...JOINING THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
入部届
LETTER
CLUB APPLICATION
1-F
KUDOU CHIKA

...Huh...?
1-F
IT'S REALLY DIRTY, THE ROOM.
BY THE WAY
flap
Eh?
I'LL BE THE PRESIDENT FROM TODAY ON.
AH, WHAT- YOU EVER. DON'T QUALIFY TO BE THE PRESI-DENT
HUH?
EH?
NO, I CLEAN EVERY DAY..
OH.
YOU GO SCRUB THE FLOOR OVER THERE
WH- WHAT...?
HUH?!
HEY, YOU!
WHAT'S WITH THIS ROOM?! AT LEAST DO SOME CLEANING, YOU BAS-TARD!
SFX RATTLE
ARGH.. DAMMIT
E- EXCUSE ME,
BUT HAS THERE BEEN SOME MIS-TAKE?
WE PLAY KOTO IN THIS CLUB...

Join the club...?
President?
What is he saying...?
SFX BAM!

I...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING, BUT...
...I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS!

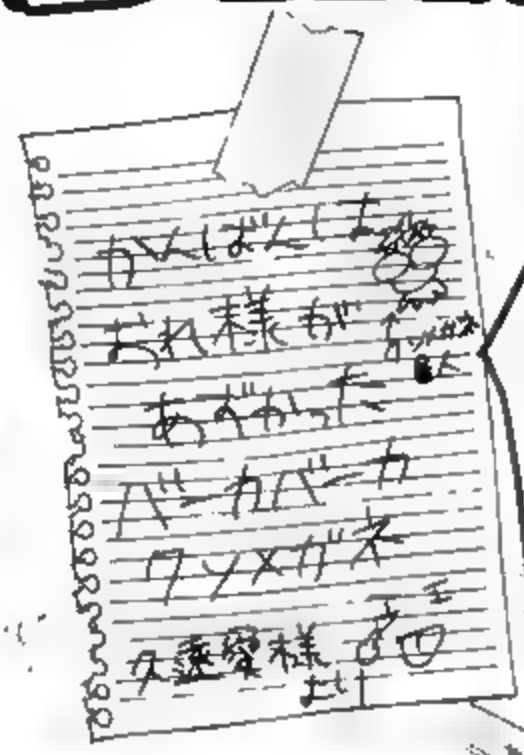
SFX HUFF
I can't believe even the new-comers are looking down on me...!
What club application? Does he think I'm an idiot?!
SFX BAM!
SFX SHOVE
GET OUT!
NOT A GATHERING PLACE FOR GANG-STERS LIKE YOU!!
THIS IS A KOTO CLUB.
UWAH ?!
"You don't qualify to be the president."
D-
DAMMIT..

pick up
rage
slowly...
Come to think of it, he was involved in that crime...
A gangster like him...
Ah!
SFX ANGER
...
SHIVER
You dare treat me like that?
concrete

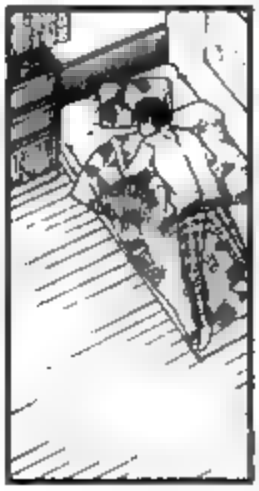
BE PATIENT.
WELL, THIS ISN'T YOUR PLACE
BAS-TARD...
Bye
DAM MIT.
THOSE GUYS...
SFX BAM
YOUR EXISTENCE IS WHAT'S WRONG.
bluntly
WHAT DID I DO WRONG?!
THAT IDIOT INSIDE IS WEIRD!
WHY?!
wham
STOP.
clank
...
WHAT'S THIS?!
shock
...WH-

LETTER I'LL KEEP THE SIGN FOR NOW,
IDIOT BASTARD FOUR-EYES
FROM KUDOU CHIKA-SAMA

BOO



WHAT'S THIS...?!



BE-
CAUSE
HEY,
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE HE FAILED THE EXAMS, SO HE STARTED TO PLAY
BY CLUB ACTIVITIES, YOU MEAN "KOTO"? THAT'S STILL GOING ON?
But...
I really hate the me who's like that.
I even gave up on myself.
"Next, we have the performance by the koto music club."
"Brother always fails at the most crucial times"
"He could have gotten in..."
"Ah, I think it was because of the stomachache he had on the exam day. "
"Eh?! Takezou-kun didn't get into Meiryou High?"
SFX FWIP
!
!!
Eh? What's wrong?
A string broke
Jwah, that's sad.
I feel like I'm looking at myself...
...when I watch this club.
Koto...
How should I say it...?
It sounds bad...
Even an amateur like me knows

She's probably so embarrassed that she just wants to give up the performance and escape...
UM...
ARE-
ARE YOU HERE TO JOIN OUR CLUB?!
grab
N-NO, I'M ONLY ...

YES...
And so I agreed unintentionally...
But...
"Thank you for joining us!"
"Eh?"
"Teach me a song?"
BEFORE GRADUATION?
"Takezou!"
IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A NAME.
THERE'S NO SCORE, EITHER.
THIS SONG IS PASSED ON TO EVERY GENERATION IN OUR CLUB
YES, BECAUSE IT'S COMING UP SOON.
BUT SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THIS CLUB,
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN PASSED FROM SENPAI TO KOUHAI.
IT'S LIKE A SONG THAT USES MUSICAL NOTES TO CONNECT PEOPLE TOGETHER.

EVEN THOUGH I FAIL AS A SENPAI IN MANY RESPECTS..
THAT'S GREAT...
THERE'S A KOUHAI I CAN PASS THIS SONG ONTO.
IT'S GREAT...
...THAT TAKEZOU IS HERE.
clench
CAN...
CAN YOU...
...GIVE THE SIGN BACK RIGHT NOW?!

WH-WHY?
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LOST IT
PLEASE GIVE IT BACK!
IT WAS PASSED ON FROM SENPAI.
IT'S REALLY IMPOR-TANT
SFX HA
NO.
SFX DOOM
SFX BAM
Wha...
HOW'S IT IMPORTANT IF IT BECAME LIKE THAT?
SO HILARIOUS.
BESIDES,
NAGGING NONSTOP... SO ANNOY-ING.
YOU WEIRD FOUR-EYES.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO RETURN TO YOU, BASTARD!

What does he want?!
flush
...
Barging into the clubroom so suddenly...
Why do I have to speak so much with such a guy?!
SFX WHAM
SFX SLP
WHA
DOOF
WHAT, YOU AGAIN? WHY ARE YOU HERE?
IT'S-
IT'S YOU!

THEY WERE JUST RUBBISH.
EH?! THEY WERE THOSE PEO-PLE'S...
TOSSED THEM.
THE THINGS THAT WERE THERE, WHERE DID YOU PUT THEM?!
!!!
THAT'S MY LINE...
flutter
Ah!
What's with this guy?!
THEN EVEN THE INSTRU-MENTS..
SFX THROW

SFX PHEW
SFX TURN
AH
DIDN'T I SAY I WAS JOIN-ING THE CLUB?!
WHAT WOULD I PLAY IF THEY GOT THROWN AWAY?
EH .
GYAA! MY HEAD, MY HEAD!
WHAT'S THE USE OF YOUR GLASSES?! AREN'T THEY OVER THERE?

Dammit! What is that guy thinking?!
THE SIGN.
shock
slide
slide
SFX HEAVE
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO, THEN THROW THIS OUT
UWAH!
WAIT...
WHY ME?
How could that sort of guy want to learn koto...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
What does he want?
kick
bam
throw
swip
"Didn't I say I was joining the club?"
...
SFX WHAM
HUH? THINKING THAT HE'S TERRIFYING?
YOU'RE SIDING WITH KUDOU.
TH-
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS SIDING...
Ugh.
ALREADY GETTING ORDERED AROUND BY KUDOU?
SO CUTE
ISN'T THAT OUR STUFF?
WHY ARE YOU THROWING IT AWAY?
EH, NO..

WHY ARE YOU GETTING INVOLVED WITH...
...SUCH SCUM AGAIN?
!!
KU-KUDOU!
DON'T ARGUE ANYMORE!
SFX BLOCK
SFX SWISH
EH?
YEAH.
HEY, THEY ALREADY LAID THEIR HANDS ON ME, RIGHT?
THEN THIS IS SELF-DEFENSE?
EHP!
GRAB
ST-
STOP!

SFX FLUSH
IT'S...
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
YOU'RE BEING BULLIED, RIGHT?
I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU.
HUH?
run run
..NONE OF MY BUSI-NESS..?
angry..
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEY WERE THE ONES WHO MUCKED UP THE CLUB.
THOSE GUYS HAVE TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON.
EVEN SO, I DON'T WANT TO USE VIO-LENCE.
WE ONLY WANT TO PROTECT THE CLUB.
HOW CAN YOU PROTECT THE CLUB LIKE THAT?!
YOUR "PROTECT" IS TO DO NOTHING!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THIS THAT THOSE GUYS DID AS THEY LIKED-
AREN'T YOU ALSO DOING THINGS AS YOU LIKE?!

pull
THAT'S WHY I SAID I WAS HERE TO "JOIN", ISN'T IT?!
DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?!
BARGING IN AS YOU PLEASE...
WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVE?!
DID YOU HAVE ISSUES WITH THE CLUB?!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE...

IS THAT SO?

swoosh..
Why..
...did he suddenly become meek..?
open...
I look like the bad guy here..
..
THIS IS..
Aim for the entire country!

"Aren't you also doing things as you like?!"
WHAT A ROUGH...
Fixing it with gum tape...
slump
bang
CHIKA?
HE'S NOT HERE YET.
EH..
IS HE TAKING DAY OFF?
NO, TODAY HE'S PROBABLY JUST LATE
? I SEE

SENPAI,
CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A BIT?
DAMMIT THAT KUDOU...
UM. DID HE GET INTO SOME KIND OF TROUBLE AGAIN?
AH, NO IT'S NOT KUDOU-KUN, IT'S ME.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
WE DON'T NEED TO FACE HIM HEAD-ON, AND WE CAN KICK HIM OUT.
I HAVE AN IDEA.
BUT IT'S DANGEROUS TO FACE HIM HEAD-ON.
IT PISSES ME OFF
INVADING OUR ROOM.
JEEZ. THAT KID'S HERE AGAIN.
EVERY MONTH, ON THIS DAY...
whisper
whisper
...REPLAY THE KUDOU INCIDENT THAT BECAME A CRIME LAST YEAR.
WE HAVE TO.

how!
IS HE HERE TO REPENT?
Land For Sale
"Hey! You're finally back, kid!"
"Come have dinner!"
BASICALLY, THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CHIKA AND KOTO ORIGINATES FROM HIS GRANDPA.

...SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A CARPENTER WHO MADE KOTO.
AND THAT GRAND-PA.
THAT GUY LIVED AT HIS GRANDPA'S PLACE DURING HIS THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HIS GRAND-FATHER?
!
EH?!
HE WAS WORSE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, ALWAYS FIGHTING WITH HIS GRANDPA AT FIRST
THAT GUY CHIKA. ...HAS GOTTEN BETTER NOW.
Then Kudou-kun really...
C-CARPEN-TER ?
BUT . I THINK A LOT OF THINGS HAVE HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM.
"What's wrong, Chika? Are you here to fight again?"

SFX SEARCH

"Uh oh, you had a big one again this time."
"How was it? Did you lose this time?"
"...Eh?"
"If I were you,"
"When will you ever stop getting involved with jerks?"
"You're a real brat."
"Tch. The other party was nine high school students."
stump
"But I still won."
"You only make instruments every day."
"Ha. For a brat like you,"
"it's hard to understand the koto's charm."
"I would live a billion times more happily than you do."
"Don't overdo it, old man."

"I don't even want to understand this!"
"...Brat, brat... You're so noisy."
SFX: PUNCH
SFX: BANG
"That's why you're a brat."
"You're..."
"Hey, Chika, where are you going?!"
SFX: BAM!
SFX: BANG!
"Ugh!"
"Chika!"

"Ugh..."
"That's the end? Boring."
"Ben-san,"
"are you still waiting for your grandson?"
"Dammit..."
GRUMBLE
"...Can't even afford the sausage stick."
rattle
"It's such a boring life you're living."
SFX: HIDE
"You should be starting to get annoyed with such a rebellious grandson, right?"
"A person like you isn't my son."
"Everyone's talking."
"Just send him somewhere."
"Don't appear in front of me again!"

"I still want to be his grandpa."
"I don't care if he's a delinquent or whatever. He's my grandson."
SFX: CLATTER

Tch
"Have you finally become interested in koto?"
Ha
"How could that be?"
"You don't understand. This structure was created after many considerations."
"I was just wondering how a round piece of wood like that can make sound."
"You will definitely understand."
"If the most brilliant koto met with the most brilliant musician and song..."
"The form is the same..."
"Dragon...?"
Such an exaggeration.
Even 'dragon' needs to give it respect."
"Besides, the koto, this instrument..."

"You're scared to let me see that you can't play?"
"Huh?"
"Huh?! Why me?"
"Do you want to have a go?"
"...then that would be the most fascinating performance."
"Fine. Hand it to me."
"Then here. Put this on your finger."
DURING THE TIME WHEN CHIKA WAS STAYING WITH HIS GRANDPA, HE RARELY HAD FIGHTS WITH OTHERS,
"Chika, let's go fight today."
"Too troublesome."
AND STOPPED GETTING INVOLVED WITH THOSE GUYS.

"Chika's really boring lately."
"Think it began after he started staying with the old man?"
IT'S NATURAL THAT SOMEONE WOULD THINK CHIKA WAS GETTING BORING
BUT...
"It's hard to get involved with him lately."
"How can I make it cold again?"
"Can't forgive that. And I really liked that cold stare of Chika's."
FOR THAT REASON, THOSE GUYS...
...ATTACKED CHIKA'S GRANDPA'S HOUSE..."

THE INSTRUMENTS...
...AND THE HOUSE...
shock
EH.
. WHILE HIS GRANDPA WASN'T HOME.*
AND MIMICKED CHIKA'S STYLE..
THEY DID EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO TEAR APART THE TRUST BETWEEN CHIKA AND HIS GRANDPA.
!
WAS THAT THE REASON?
IT SEEMS HE WAS SICK BEFORE-HAND
IT'S UNCLEAR.
!
THEN THAT CRIMINAL INCIDENT...
THAT'S RIGHT. THE POLICE SUSPECTED CHIKA.
HIS GRANDPA COLLAPSED THAT DAY, AND A FEW DAYS LATER.. HE PASSED AWAY
"It was you, wasn't it!"
"What a guy. Come here!"
SENPAI
THE REASON WHY THAT GUY WANTED TO JOIN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB SO MUCH..

...WAS BECAUSE ...
...THE PERSON WHO ESTABLISHED THE CLUB WAS HIS GRANDPA.
"Did you have issues with the club?!"
...just wanted to join the koto club that his grandpa created...
He really...
So it was true...
Can't erase them...
"It's impossible to believe."
UGH
But how should I say it...?
I must apologize to Kudou-kun!!
SEX TOPEN

Because this isn't a topic that I can bring up...
SFX: WHAM
st
are
SFX BAM
clatter
HEY, FOUR-EYES...
PISSES ME OFF...
"Stop!"
"Then this is self-defense?"
"It's impossible to believe."

SFX: NOISE
?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT...
HEY...!
WE HEARD A LOUD NOISE, SO WE CAME OVER.
KUDOU ...!
YOU REALLY HAVE GUTS, TO DO THIS!
HUH. .
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

SHUT UP!
WHO WOULD STILL BELIEVE YOU?!
HUH?! I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!
JUST HELP HIM UP-
COME HERE!
"Come here!"
"It was you, wasn't it?!"
What's this?
It's like this again..
open wide
Where am I..?
Why...
Eh...

SFX SIT UP
SFX SLIDE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
AH, YOU'RE AWAKE ?!
OUCH?!
Ha
That's right. Who did-
DO-DOC-TOR..
So painful
THAT WAS A PAINFUL HIT
IT WAS THAT KUDOU AGAIN.
EH?!
SFX OUCH 2X
KUDOU-KUN..?
HE WAS BROUGHT TO THE HEADMAS-TER'S ROOM UNDER ACCUSA-TION.
HE EVEN DID THAT TO THE CLUB-ROOM...
WHAT A SCARY CHILD .
HGH...
"...attacked the house of Chika's grandpa.."
"...mimicked Chika's style..."
It's the same as that time!
heartbeat
Gets up
WAIT?!
I DON'T THINK IT WAS KUDOU-KUN.
THE CRIMI-NAL...
WAIT A MINUTE!
LET ME EX-PLAIN...

NOTHING GOOD COMES OF GETTING INVOLVED WITH HIM!
ISN'T THAT ALREADY OBVIOUS AFTER THIS INCIDENT?!
UGH.
clench
clench
BUT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.
BUT IT'S BETTER NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE ONE CALLED KUDOU!
KUDOU-KUN..
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU EXPLAINED.
LEAVE EVERYTHING TO THE TEACHERS.
JUST GO HOME TODAY.
IF YOU KEEP SILENT, THE PROBLEM CAN'T BE SOLVED.
OR IS IT..

"Shut up!"
"I didn't do anything!"
...THAT YOU'RE AGREEING IT WAS YOUR WORK?
"No! It wasn't me!"
"Who cares if it wasn't you?!"
"That's why I said-"
"He actually did something like that to his grandfather's house..."
"So scary!"

"Aren't you the reason why it turned out like this?!"

If I get involved with Kudou-kun...
I'll have to be ready for such things.
pain
pain
...It's true.
I didn't think about it well enough.
"Nothing good comes of getting involved with him!"

I must protect the club...
Though I feel bad for Kudou-kun...
as expected, I shouldn't get involved with him.
pain
pain
pain
We come from two completely different worlds.
To me, it doesn't matter if he's here or not
"Please give the sign back!
It was passed on from Senpai.
It's really important."
"How's that important?
So hilarious."
"Because the one who established the club...
...was that guy's grandpa."
...AH...

箏曲部

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU.
HEY.
MAYBE THAT GUY KUDOU WILL QUIT SCHOOL
Hahaha
NO, IT WENT MORE SMOOTHLY THAN EXPECTED.
HOW SHOULD WE PENALIZE HIM?
MIGHT AS WELL JUST EXPEL HIM FROM HERE
THIS BRAT DID THE SAME THING LAST YEAR.
THE CULPRIT MUST BE HIM.
HEAD-MASTER, DON'T LISTEN TO THIS BRAT.
SFX BAM
WAIT A MOMENT!

"Takezou, we leave the club to you now."
THAT ..
dokun
dokun
COMPARED TO MY INJURIES..
"If it's Takezou, it'll be fine..."
..
dokun
KURATA-KUN! HOW'S YOUR INJURY?
FOUR-EYES.
I'M FINE!
huff
huff
dokun
WH-
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT...
DO YOU KNOW WHO IT WAS?
IT-
IT WASN'T KUDOU-KUN!
WASN'T IT KUDOU, THEN?!
WHY ELSE WOULD HE BE AT THE SCENE? THAT'S THE MOST POWERFUL EVIDENCE!
KUDOU-KUN...!

KUDOU-KUN IS THE NEW MEMBER OF THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
WHY CAN'T HE ENTER THE CLUB ROOM?!

"Oh, Chika, you're back."
"Spit it out!"
"It was you, wasn't it!"
WHY DID YOU JOIN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB?
HEAD-MAS-TER!
IS THAT TRUE?
KUDOU-KUN,
WH...
WHAT ARE YOU...
"How should we punish him?!"
"No one will believe you!"
"...I..."
"You brat! You're putting shame on your grandpa!"

T/N: AS IN WHAT REALLY HAPPEN

GRANDPA
BECAUSE THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
...WAS CREATED BY MY GRANDPA.
!
GRANDPA TREASURED THE CLUB,
BUT BECAUSE OF ME, IT WAS HEAVILY DAMAGED.
SO I WANT TO PROTECT WHAT'S LEFT
WHAT GRANDPA TREASURED ...
I WANT TO COME TO KNOW IT.

SO...
...I JOINED THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
Ah...!
"The koto music club was established by one of my old friends."
That's right! The person that Headmaster mentioned should be Kudou-kun's grandfather!
THAT CRAP...
I WAS HIS GRANDPA'S FRIEND.
I DON'T THINK HE'S LYING
WHAT?!
!
SINCE OUR SCHOOL DAYS.
WATCH WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
THIS BRAT MAY HAVE VANDALIZED HIS GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE...
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, IT DOESN'T CLEAR HIM OF THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM!
YOU DON'T HAVE THE EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT WAS HIM.
YOU ONLY BELIEVE THAT BECAUSE OF YOUR PRECONCEPTION OF HIM.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

WH-
WHAT?!
THEY'VE ADMITTED TO IT THEMSELVES!
THE THREE STUDENTS WHO VANDALIZED THE CLUB ROOM AND ATTACKED KURATA-KUN...
B-
BUT...
HEAD-MASTER!
SFX BAM
KUDOU-KUN, KURATA-KUN.
Three people... Could it be..?
WHO ARE THOSE BAS-TARDS?!
step
step
Y-
YOU AND GRANDPA WERE FRIENDS?
IT'S OKAY.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
FOR BLAMING YOU BEFORE.

LET'S TALK ABOUT HIM NEXT TIME.
COME SEE ME ANYTIME IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.
...
YES.

silence

...
AH!
This mood's bad...!
TH-THEN SHALL WE HEAD BACK?!

THANKS.
AS IF I WOULD!
EEH?!
EH?!
DID YOU THANK ME JUST NOW?!
Too soft!
WHO KNOWS.
THEY ACTUALLY ADMITTED TO IT
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO THOSE THREE?
BUT STILL,

"Uwaaaaah!"
SORRY I'M A BUSY-BODY.
FORGET IT
MAYBE SOME BUSYBODY DID SOMETHING FROM THE SHADOWS.
EH.
YOU BAS-TARDS GO SUR-RENDER NOW.
OKAY, I WIN.
pull
jolt
uu
ugh!
NEXT TIME, I WON'T GO SO EASY ON YOU, SO BE PREPARED
DON'T SOLVE THINGS BY VIOLENCE, SENPAI.
THIS TIME, I TOOK YOU ONE ON THREE.
AH, WHAT TRASH ARE YOU THINK-ING RIGHT NOW?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? THE SCHOOL GATE IS THIS WAY
JEEZ I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF IT..
SIGH
IF WE DON'T DO CLUB ACTIVITIES...
CLUBROOM.
"It's all right. If it's Takezou..."
Senpai...
...HAHA.
"Takezou, please take care of the club."

"...we'll create the most perfect koto music club..."
Though it's troublesome,
we have the most awesome new member.
OH, YEAH. THANKS FOR THE SIGN, KUDOU-KUN.
HUH?! I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ADMIT IT?
SHUT UP, YOU DAMN FOUR-EYES!

Teacher
You all have stomachaches?
Aiming for those parts when looking from the side
The blows were all hidden in the chest area
Damn
We finished everything...
Are there any new releases?
I should buy a manga on my way home

#2 QUALIFICATION WHEREABOUTS

"I want to come to know it."
"What Grandpa treasured...
Just like that,
Kudou-kun joined the koto music club.
SFX STEP
And the koto music club...
...began to look like a real club...
箏曲部

#2 QUALIFICATION WHEREABOUTS

WE DEFINITELY CAN'T LOSE TO THE OTHER CLUBS!
LISTEN UP, FOUR-EYES!
SFX BOOM
we're promoting the club to the newcomers. Today,
...since the incident with Kudou-kun. I haven't been able to sleep...
I'LL KILL YOU IF WE LOSE.
DEFEAT
SFX RAGE
AND GET AS MANY MEMBERS AS WE CAN! WE MUST DEFEAT THE OTHER CLUBS!
THE PROMOTIONS AREN'T A COMPETITION ACTUALLY
IT'S OBVIOUSLY A FIGHT TO ATTRACT NEWCOMERS!
THE CLUB WILL BE DISBANDED IF THERE AREN'T AT LEAST FIVE MEMBERS, RIGHT?!
どうすんの
PRESSURE
SFX BONK
so much pressure

WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!
FIRST ON THE STAGE IS THE POP BAND CLUB.
THEY WILL BE PERFORMING "DATELESS", THE NUMBER ONE MOST POPULAR SONG IN THIS SCHOOL!
SFX WAAAH!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T LISTEN TO MUSIC MUCH.
look I've got goose bumps
Shiver
BY THE WAY WHAT'S WITH THIS SONG? DON'T YOU THINK IT SOUNDS REALLY BAD?
DOES IT?
OH, REALLY?
I ENCOURAGED YEAH HIM UNTIL HE WAS BROUGHT TO TEARS.
WILL SENPAI BE OKAY?
SFX CLAP
Hmph
WHAT RUBBISH. IT'S NOT EVEN IN TUNE.

I've practiced many times already because of Kudou-kun,
Ahhh~
shake
shake
but this is my first time playing solo on stage.
Koto Music Club
...
rustle...
SFX WAAAH!
"Takezou, you're always too nervous!"
If a string breaks like what happened to Senpai last year, I...
What should I do if I mess up halfway?
"If you've done your best to practice,
"then it doesn't matter if you fail in the end."
"Just enjoy it!"
"The stage itself is the reward for those who've worked hard all along."
clench

I'M FROM THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB
UM, WE..COME TO OUR SCHOOL.
N-NICE TO MEET YOU ALL
OKAY. NEXT UP...
..IS OUR SCHOOL'S KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
SFX HA
TODAY, I'LL BE PERFORMING "ROKUDAN". A PIECE THAT COVERS THE BASICS OF KOTO.
The basics of koto...
So it's the basics
All right
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED. FEEL FREE TO VISIT OUR CLUB!
IS HE ALL RIGHT, THAT GUY ?
His eyes look scary
THE CLUB IS ABOUT PLAYING KOTO, A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE INSTRUMENT
clatter

SFX DING
I can do it...!
It's it's okay, okay,
OO
inhale
SFX DON
SFX SHAN
SFX SHAN
korori
SFX NOISE 2X
SFX. NO SE 2X
Ahaha what's that? By the way
Hey, which one are you joining?
kyahaha!
Yup, it's true.
So.
And this
Yup- that's right.
Eh? Then
Eh really? Ahaha
HEY, HEY, NEXT .

SFX: STOMP
SFX: SILENCE
SO DAMN NOISY! I CAN'T HEAR ANY OF IT!
STUPID.
Can...
Can I really keep the club going with Kudou-kun...?
KU.
KUDOU-KUN.
SORRY, SENPAI
THERE'S NO HELPING HIS STUPIDITY
HUH?!
IT'S ALL RIGHT

SFX BONK
EH.
TOTALLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND
MY
MY PERFOR-MANCE, HOW WAS IT..?
BUT WILL THERE BE ANYONE WHO WANTS TO JOIN?
IT WASN'T THAT BAD
DOESN'T THAT PIECE COVER THE BASICS OF KOTO?
I DIDN'T QUITE UNDER-STAND.
BUT IT STILL SOUNDED NICE
WHAT'S THAT ?
R.
I REALLY SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN A MORE POPULAR PIECE .
OUCH!
bonk
NO, BECAUSE WE'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT PIECE
SFX OPEN
HUH?
WAS THAT A JOKE? I DON'T WANT TO BE WITH THEM.
WELL, YOU JUST HAVE TO GREET THEM HONESTLY
AND IF WE DON'T GET ENOUGH MEMBERS, THEN.
B-BY THE WAY, THOSE GUYS FROM BACK THEN CAME TO THIS SCHOOL TOO.
THEY SEEM QUITE FREE, MAYBE YOU COULD GO ASK THEM?
...EH?

รลล...

Uwah, a beauty...!
Smile
SORRY I ENTERED WITHOUT ASKING.
ACTU-ALLY, I WANT TO JOIN THIS CLUB.
U-UM...
SO AM I ALLOWED TO JOIN?
EHHHHH?!
IT'S NOT ABOUT ALLOW-ING OR NOT! ACTU-ALLY, YOU'RE VERY WEL-COME TO!
THAT'S GREAT! HERE'S MY APPLICA-TION.
YOU BASTARD, WHY DIDN'T YOU WELCOME ME LIKE THAT WHEN I JOINED?
HUH?
BECAUSE THE WAY KUDOU-KUN APPEARED WAS REALLY STRANGE!
kiek kiek
Amazing... There's already someone who wants to join...!
UM, YOUR NAME IS.

HO
HOUTSUKI SATOWA. , -SAN?
YES.
WOULD YOU BE THAT HOUTSUKI GROUP'S.
HOUTSUKI. SATOWA-SAN. ?
YOU KNOW ABOUT HOUTSUKI?
SFX SHINE
WHAA AAAA AAAA AAT?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, DO I KNOW HER OR NOT?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU KNOW THIS PERSON?
stagger
SHE'S AN OJOU-CHAN FROM A SUPERB KOTO FAMILY!
SHE'S WON MANY KOTO COMPE-TITIONS, AND SHE'S KNOWN AS A GENIUS GIRL!
THAT'S A BIT... EXA-GGE-RATED
glare

HMPH!
SO WHAT? JUDGES ARE ALWAYS UNTRUSTWORTHY!
BUT WHY IS SOMEONE AS TALENTED AS HOUTSUKI-SAN JOINING OUR CLUB ?
OR EVEN ENTERING OUR SMALL SCHOOL?
nervous
Calm down, Chika.
I
HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY KOTO EVER SINCE I WAS BORN.
!
I HEARD YOUR SCHOOL'S GROUP PERFORMANCE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL PRELIMINARY SELECTIONS. LAST YEAR,
AT THAT TIME, I WAS THINKING HOW MUCH FUN YOU GUYS WERE HAVING.
I'VE NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY WITH SOMEONE MY OWN AGE
BUT I CAN ONLY PLAY SOLO OR WITH ADULTS ALL THE TIME...
SFX TEARY
どぱっ
I REMEMBER.
THERE ARE STILL A FEW FEMALE SENPAIS, RIGHT?
THA-
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
What...?
AND HOW NICE IT WOULD BE IF I COULD PERFORM TOGETHER WITH YOU.

ABOUT THAT THOSE SENPAIS HAVE ALREADY GRADUATED.
RIGHT NOW, THERE'S ONLY KUDOU-KUN, WHO JOINED YESTERDAY, AND ME.
BUT... WE WON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEMBERS IF THERE ARE ONLY THE TWO OF US
WHAT? ONLY TWO BOYS?
sit
EH...?
fwip
I WASTED MY TIME PRETENDING TO BE A GOOD GIRL...
SFX. HUH?

ARE YOU THINKING THAT I DON'T ACT LIKE A GOOD GIRL?
IF THE FEMALE SENPAIS WERE HERE,
SOMEONE AS TALENTED AS ME WOULD BE LABELLED AS ARROGANT, RIGHT?
I WAS ONLY PRETENDING. AN ACT.
WELL, YOU DID GO ON STAGE ALONE JUST THEN,
SO I HAD THOUGHT OF THAT POSSIBILITY?
UH... UM,
HOU-TSUKI-SAN. ?
YOUR CHARACTER.
HEY, THIS GIRL ISN'T SO SIMPLE!
Ehhhh...!!!
OTHERWISE, THEY WOULD HAVE GOSSIPED BEHIND MY BACK.
SO ANNOYING.
THEN THE REASON FOR JOINING THAT YOU JUST GAVE WAS.
AH,
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL KOTO PLAYER
!!
I'M ONLY JOINING THE CLUB TO CREATE A TOPIC FOR PEOPLE TO DISCUSS WHEN I BECOME FAMOUS.
A-A TOPIC ?
THAT'S RIGHT
"THE DEBUT OF THE GENIUS KOTO GIRL WHO LED A WEAK KOTO CLUB TO BECOMING NUMBER ONE IN THE COUNTRY!"
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
IT WILL BE A HOT TOPIC.

THAT'S WHY I WILL LEAD THIS CLUB TO THE TOP OF THE COUNTRY...
...AS MY EXTRAVAGANT SHOW WHEN I DEBUT.
A WEAK CLUB,?
NUMBER ONE IN THE COUNTRY?!
NO MATTER HOW TALENTED I AM OR HOW FAMOUS MY FAMILY IS,
NOWADAYS, IF YOU DON'T HAVE A TOPIC FOR PEOPLE TO DISCUSS, YOU WON'T BECOME A HIT.
W-WHAT
BUT SENPAI, IF YOU ALSO HAVE THIS AS THE GOAL FOR THE CLUB,
THEN WE'RE IN THE SAME BOAT.
DON'T WORRY.
IF I'M HERE, IT'LL BE EASY TO BECOME NUMBER ONE
LET'S WORK HARD TOGETHER
...
SEX BAM!

ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY BECAUSE YOU CAN PLAY A FEW NOTES...
WE CAN BECOME NUMBER ONE WITHOUT YOU BEING HERE!
EHH?!
BASTARD! WHAT'S WITH YOU...
...SAYING ALL THAT RUBBISH?
WHY DID SOMEONE LIKE YOU JOIN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB?
MAKING A FUSS DURING THE PERFORMANCE?
BUT WHAT WERE YOU THINKING,
I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.
SO RUDE
BITCH...
UGH!
SFX KICK
IT WAS MY FAULT.
!
THAT IS.
KU-
KUDOU-KUN IS.
AND YOU, SENPAI!
WHAT'S WITH THIS KOTO? IT'S SO WORN-OUT
HOW DID YOU MAINTAIN THEM?
THE STRINGS DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY BROKE NATURALLY
!

pull
HMM.
SO IT'S TRUE THEN.
DON'T SAY IT WASN'T KUDOU-KUN WHO BROKE IT
THE REASON WHY YOU JOINED THIS CLUB
I HAVE NO IDEA AND I'M NOT INTERESTED
...IS NOT QUALIFIED TO PLAY KOTO.
BECAUSE SOMEONE WHO DAMAGES INSTRUMENTS LIKE THAT

HOUTSUKI-SAN!!!
"I don't even want...
...to understand this!"
thwap
LET'S BE NICE TO EACH OTHER.
HOW'S THAT?
I DON'T THINK
IT'S GOOD TO DRIVE SOMEONE INTO A CORNER.
KUDOU-KUN!
FORGET ABOUT HIM.
HOU-TSUKI-SAN.
YOU'VE MISUNDERSTOOD. KUDOU-KUN...
TO ME,
HOW HE HANDLES THE KOTO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT.

HEY, CHIKA.
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY DEPRESSED FOR?
I ONLY CAME TO HAND IN THE APPLI-CATION FORM TODAY
ANYWAY I'LL BE BACK TOMO-RROW
!
THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
ISN'T THAT BEING DEPRE-SSED? So head-strong.
I'M NOT DE-PRESSED ARE YOU STUPID?
AM I REALLY LIKE WHAT THAT GIRL SAID? AM I NOT QUALIFIED TO PLAY KOTO?
TO BE HONEST
ALTHOUGH FOUR-EYES ALLOWED ME TO JOIN THE CLUB.

HEY.
WHEN DID YOU BECOME SO COLD-HEARTED?!
THAT HURTS! WHY DO I HAVE TO THINK? IT'S YOUR PROBLEM, ISN'T IT?!
HUH?!
SHOULDN'T YOU THANK ME FOR STAYING WITH YOU?!
You brat!
...
Yap Yap Yap
BASTARD! THINK THOROUGHLY BEFORE YOU ANSWER!
Why are you reading manga at a time like this?!
kick
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
sigh
"I've already decided to become a professional koto player, and my topic will be..."
"...to lead a weak koto club to becoming number one in the country!"
Club Application
1 - F
"It'll be easy to become number one."
I just can't believe that the successor of the Houtsuki family is like that...
AND WITH KUDOU-KUN'S PROBLEM,
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB FROM NOW ON. ?
Professional. Number one.
LIKE SHE'S LIVING IN ANOTHER DIMENSION.
"How he handles the koto is the most important."
...She acts like that because she was born surrounded by koto...

The whole country or not, to me it's...
DON'T SPEAK OF IT...
.. SO LIGHTLY.
1 — F
WHY...
WH-
WHY ARE YOU HERE, BITCH?!
Next to me?!
I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE SINCE THE START OF SCHOOL
BY THE WAY, WHO ARE YOU?

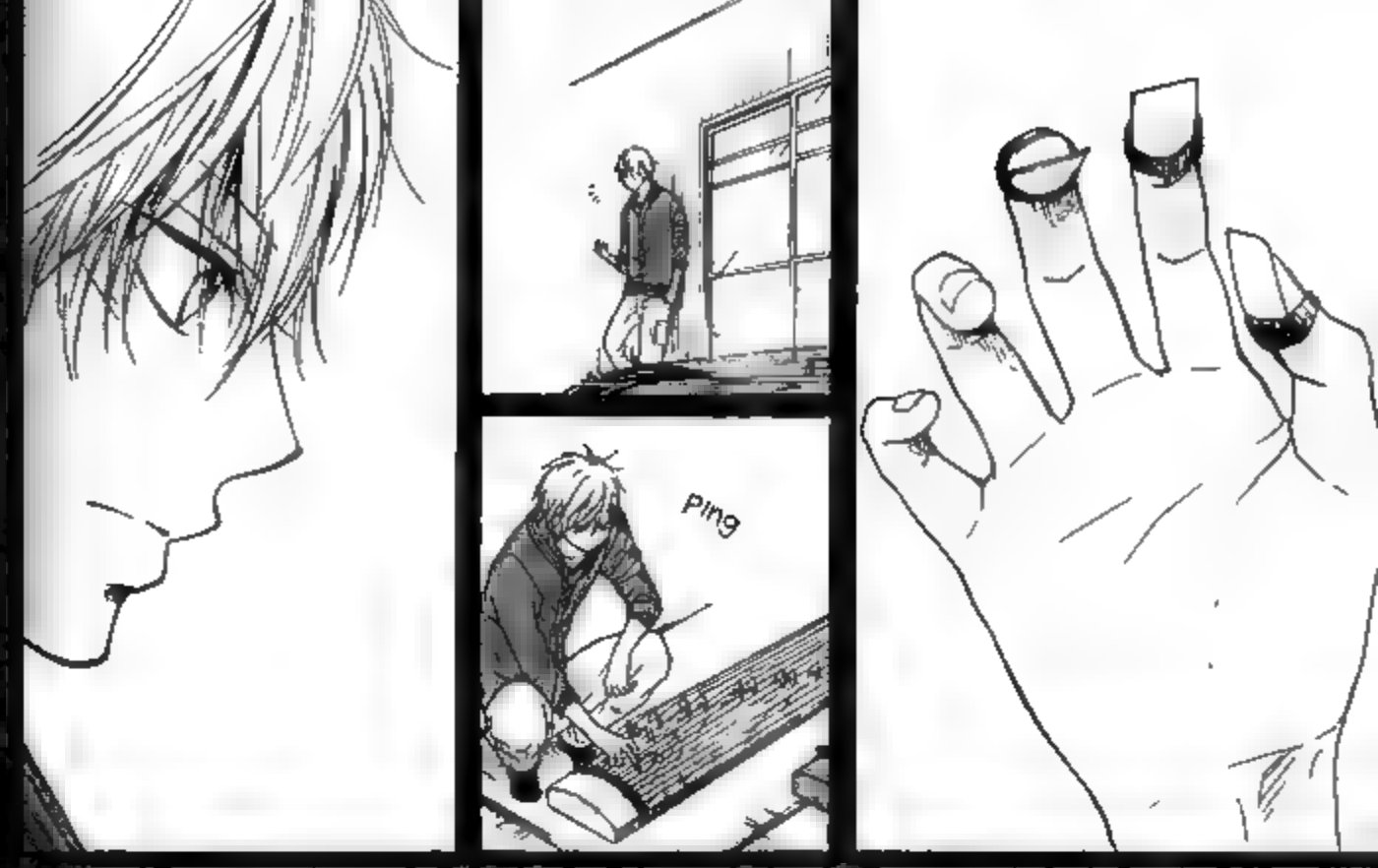
Sit
DEMURE
B-
BITCH..
"Someone who damages instruments like that is not qualified to play koto."
SFX NOISE ZX
YOU SAID YESTER-DAY THAT I AM NOT QUALIFIED.
HUH?
A. ABOUT QUALIFICA-TION.
...HUH?
WHAT ABOUT IT?
HOW CAN I BECOME QUALIFIED?
I'M SAYING
HOW CAN I BECOME QUALIFIED?
WEREN'T YOU BORN INTO A KOTO FAMILY?!
YOU SHOULD KNOW, RIGHT?

Open
EVERY-ONE SIT STILL
CLASS IS STAR-TING
SFX RAGE
SUCH A STUPID QUESTION
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN MOCKED LIKE THAT.
I CAN'T SIT NEXT TO THIS BITCH!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
I'M SKIPPING CLASS!!!
EHH?!
SFX CLATTER
He's really hopeless...
HEY, KUDOU!!
SFX BAM!
How could I have misunderstood...
...a guy who makes such a rough sound?
"Houtsuki-kun, you've misunder-stood. Kudou-kun..."

clench...
That's why I...
Sounds don't lie.
Sounds can reflect one's personality.
I DON'T CARE.
AND I WAS ASKING HER SO SERIOUSLY!
DAM-MIT!
SFX CLANG
THAT WOMAN'S IN NO POSITION TO TALK!
WHAT QUALIFICATION? I WANT TO PLAY, AND THAT'S ALREADY GOOD ENOUGH!
THERE YOU GO! PROBLEM SOLVED!
THUD

"Don't handle the instruments so roughly!"
"Hey, Chika!"
"Okay! So noisy!"
I know how to play.
"No, that's not right."
"Do you want to have a go?"
SFX PING SFX PANG
"See? Not bad, right?"
"Haha. You're sure picking it up."

"I-"
"You actually have the talent in you."
"What's that?!"
"Talent in such a thing isn't something to be happy about!"
clench..
SFX: BAM
"Hey, wait! Chi-"



"You're not qualified to play koto."

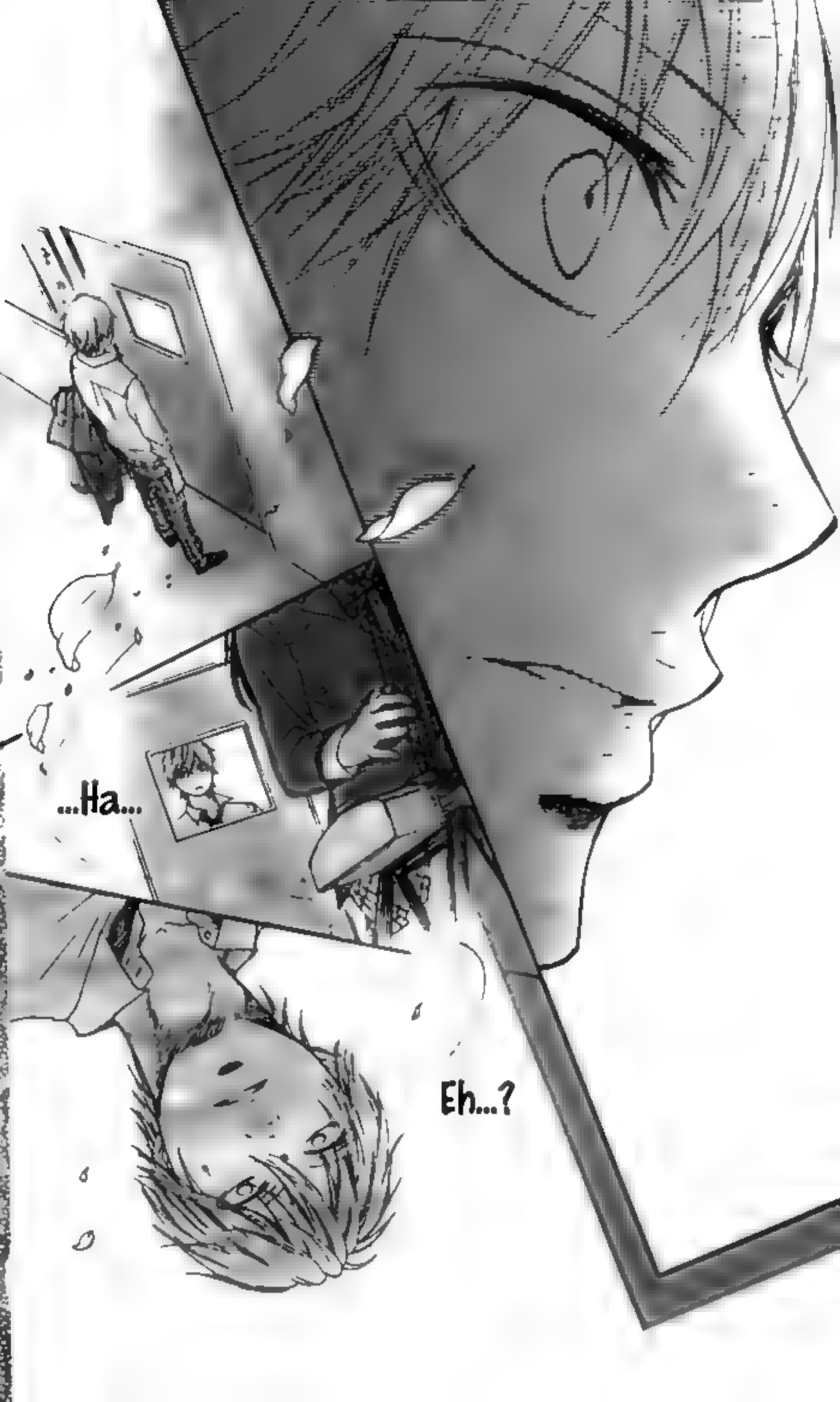
S-Some- how it feels weird...
H-
HELLO
HELLO
!
I wonder if Kudou-kun will come today...
open...
Goal: The Country's #1
HOU-
HOUTSUKI-SAN, THIS S. ?!
AH,
THE ONE BEFORE WAS TORN, SO I STUCK ANOTHER ONE UP
AND THE GOAL IS HIGHER THAN BEFORE
MAKES YOU FEEL RE-FRESHED
!
DON'T DECIDE THAT ON YOUR OWN!

PERHAPS THAT GOAL
IS ONLY A STEPPING STONE FOR MOUTSUKI-SAN.
BUT TO A NORMAL PERSON LIKE ME,
MERELY AIMING FOR THE NATIONAL LEVEL IS ALREADY LIKE A DREAM.
SO-
SOR-RY
Shock
A GOAL MOTIVATES A PERSON TO IMPROVE HIS ABILITY
I ONLY HOPE YOU CAN UNDER-STAND THAT...
I'M NOT SO NAIVE AS TO CLING TO A DREAM THAT DOESN'T MATCH MY OWN ABILITY!
SENPAI, DON'T YOU WANT TO AIM FOR THE NATIONAL LEVEL?
THOSE WITHOUT AMBI-TION...
WILL NEVER HAVE THE ABILITY
...AFTER YOU LOST THE PRELIMI-NARIES LAST YEAR?
OTHER-WISE, WHY DID YOU CRY...

YOU SAW...
YOU DIDN'T FEEL CONTENT, RIGHT?
WASN'T THAT BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO IMPROVE?
IF I'M HERE, THEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO LEAD THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL.
YOU TALK ABOUT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.
BUT THAT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT A PERSON CAN ACHIEVE ALONE ..!
I THINK...
...IT'S SOMETHING THAT CAN ONLY BE REACHED WITH EVERYONE'S HARD WORK.
BAM...

"Eh... The national level?!"
"If our goal is higher, then surely we'll improve faster!"
"But that doesn't limit our goal, right?"
"You're joking! You know our abilities, right?!"
"Of course!"
"Senpai, don't you want to aim for the national level?"
"Otherwise, why did you cry?"

sta-
-re
A DOCTOR-SOLDIER AND FROM A KUTO FAMILY
SAYING HOW AMAZING YOU ARE
SO SHE WANTS TO PLAY THE KUTO?
SIT
HUH? Uh
WHY AM I SCARED TO GO IN?
DAMN IT
THAT WOMAN'S ALREADY HERE
JUST HOW GREAT YOUR ABILITY IS
LET ME HEAR


...Ha...
Eh...?

No...
the koto... right...?
She's playing...

It's totally different from what I've heard up until now...!

...

There's such a big difference when another person plays it...?!

This is the piece four-eyes performed yesterday, right...?

SFX DOKUN

"It's hard to understand the koto's charm."
"For a brat like you."
but every single note rings in my ear...!
I don't really understand it.
"This structure was created after many considerations."
"You don't understand."

HEARTBEAT
HEARTBEAT
HEARTBEAT
HEARTBEAT

SFX WHAM
OLD MAN.
SFX KNOCK ZX
Headmaster's Office
...
I WANT TO ASK A FAVOR.
..

WHAT IS IT?
..
Will Houtsuki-san and Kudou-kun come today...?
It's even more embarrassing than yesterday...
Ahh~
SFX DOOM
AH?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HELLO.
AH KURATA-KUN
HUM?
!
IS THAT OKAY ?
SINCE YOU TWO WEREN'T THE ONES AT FAULT
OF COURSE,
...TO COME AND GET THEM FIXED.
SO I HIRED PEOPLE FROM THE MUSIC STORE .
I HEARD THE INSTRUMENTS WERE DAMAGED,

I'M REALLY SORRY
NO WORRIES.
SO I'LL JUST PRACTICE AT HOME UNTIL THE KOTO ARE REPAIRED
I HAVE MY OWN KOTO,
WE'RE FINE!
BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE INSTRUMENT LEFT
AH..
CLUB ACTIVITIES WILL BE DIFFICULT, RIGHT ?
SFX SHOCK
...
SFX SWITCH
Good girl mode...
COME AND FIND ME IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER PROBLEMS.
THEN
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
SFX OPEN
...She's still mad...
SFX EMPTY
...KUDOU-KUN ISN'T HERE
turn
THAT'S IT, THEN.
LET ME KNOW WHEN THE INSTRUMENTS ARE FIXED.
BYE.
AH!

AH...

EH?
KUDOU-KUN DIDN'T COME TODAY?
WHAT'S WRONG?
A COLD?
IDIOTS DON'T CATCH COLDS.
HE'S PROBABLY JUST SKIPPING.
I SEE...
I GET IT THANKS.
THAT GUY ALWAYS WORRIES ME.

But actually about Kudou-kun, I'm not entirely...
Or maybe...
HOW CAN I STAY THERE AFTER SHE SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! I QUIT!
No, no, probably not...
I want to send an e-mail, but I don't know the address...
Houtsuki-san's words...
really make me feel troubled.
KOTO MUSIC CLUB
HE ALREADY WENT HOME?!
EH?
It'll be fine! Kudou-kun will come tomorrow...
slap
SORRY
I'M NOT TOO SURE.
SO HE REALLY IS SICK.
WHAT'S WRONG?!

KU-DOU...
This is the third floor!
EHHH! HH?!
SFX OPEN
SFX RUN
..Kudou-kun ran away from me constantly.
Don't even mention coming to club activities.
AH, KU-DOU-KUN!
EH?!
After that...
He left.
EH..
AND FOR THAT REASON...
snore snore
snore
Hmph...
He's really just a delinquent.

ding
And so...
...a week passed...
HE SAID HE WAS BUSY AGAIN TODAY AND THEN JUST FLED...
I'M SORRY.
AH.
I've reached my limit.
YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME, RIGHT?
SFX RAGE
YES..
TAKA-OKA-KUN
"Sorry, Senpai. He made me swear not to tell you."
SFX RUN

AND THEN..
HOU-TSUKI-SA...
!
Actually, he...
OUCH!
UWAH!

SFX BUMP

NADE-SHIKO-CHAN?
FROM THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB!
AH, THE GUY WHO DID THAT BORING PERFOR-MANCE!

YOU BUMPED INTO ME!
Uwah,
SO-SORRY
the pop band club's...
ISN'T THAT NADESHIKO-CHAN?

WORK HARD-
STUPID, LET'S GO.
YOU DIDN'T FIND ANY NEW MEMBERS, RIGHT?
WANT ME TO JOIN?
pat pat

!
RIGHT!
THE PER-FORMANCE WAS BORING,
AND THERE WAS A FIRST-YEAR DELIN-QUENT WHO MADE A FUSS IN THE MIDDLE
SUCH A POOR THING, THIS GUY.

AREN'T YOU THE ONES WHO NEED TO WORK HARD?
AND YOU STILL DARE TO LAUGH AT HIS PERFORMANCE?
YOU WERE TOTALLY OFF-KEY,
WAS SHE TALKING TO US?
EH.
HUH?
?!
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO LAUGH AT OTHERS,
WHY DON'T YOU PRACTICE SOME MORE?

SFX NO'SE ZX
HOU-TSUKI-SAN.
HEY, JUST LEAVE HER.
TCH..
Eh? A fight?
U-
UM!
SIGN NISHINA MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
THERE'S A PLACE I WANT YOU TO GO WITH ME!
...IS THIS IT?
WHAT'S THIS?
ISN'T THIS THE SHOP WHERE THE INSTRUMENTS WERE SENT TO BE RE-PAIRED?

COULD YOU BE, KUDOU-KUN'S FRIENDS?
YOU GUYS!
EVEN SO, WE DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE
ARE THE REPAIRS FINISHED?
OUCH!!!
SFX TWANG
EH
YEAH HE'S INSIDE
IS KUDOU-KUN HERE?!
?!
ALL RIGHT! I GET IT!
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO PAY EXTRA ATTEN-TION!
IDIOT!
WATCH YOUR TONE!
I ONLY LET YOU HELP BECAUSE YOU KEPT BEGGING ME!
OUCH.
SFX HIT

KIDS THESE DAYS. .
YOU'RE ALREADY AN OLD WOMAN AND YOU'RE STILL THAT STRONG.
WHO'S AN OLD WOMAN?!
knock
OUCH!
WH. WHAT
?
UM.
THIS ALL STARTED A WEEK AGO
"_Um_"
KUDOU-KUN SUDDENLY CAME TO OUR STORE.
NOT LONG AFTER WE RECEIVED THE HEADMASTER'S ORDER TO REPAIR THE KOTOS,
"Please let me help with the repairs."
"The reason why the kotos got damaged...
...was all my fault..."
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.

LITTLE BRAT!
BUT OUR GRANNY HERE IS ALSO LIKE THAT.
IT REALLY SURPRISED ME.
SHE SOLIDLY REJECTED HIM IN THE BEGINNING.
"What are you playing at?! I won't let someone who damaged the kotos touch them! Get out!"
THAT IS, TO EXPLAIN THE "REASON FOR THE DAMAGE" AND THE "REASON FOR THE REPAIR."
GRANNY CAME UP WITH A CONDITION FOR HIM TO STAY AND HELP
IN THE END,
WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIM.
HE JUST SAT IN FRONT OF THE STORE WITHOUT EATING ANYTHING.
BUT KUDOU-KUN CAME HERE EVERY DAY
TO KUDOU-KUN. THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCES HE DIDN'T WANT TO BRING UP AGAIN.
, BUT HE STILL TOLD US EVERYTHING.
!
THEN, ABOUT KUDOU-KUN'S
WE HEARD IT
EVERY-THING THAT HAPPENED

...
TO BECOME QUALIFIED.
WHY DID HE HAVE TO GO THAT FAR. ?
Hmph
"I'M AN IDIOT,
SO I DON'T KNOW IF SOMEONE WHO DAMAGES A KOTO IS QUALIFIED TO PLAY IT."
"BUT IF I COULD GAIN ACCEPTANCE FROM A CARPENTER WHO MAKES KOTOS,
AND THE QUALIFICATION TO PLAY..."
Um. This and that there. This string.

"...THEN I CAN PROBABLY HOLD MY HEAD HIGH WHEN I FACE THE KOTO," HE SAID.
...
...WILL BE A STRAIGHT LINE LIKE AN IDIOT'S.
I'M SURE THE SOUND THAT GUY MAKES...
HE PISSES ME OFF.
HOW NAIVE CAN HE BE?
JUST LIKE AN IDIOT..
!
HOU-TSUKI-SAN!

HOU-TSUKI-SAN...
LI-LIM...
SORRY ABOUT BEFORE..
..AND THANK YOU... FOR JUST THEN...
LIKE WHAT HOUTSUKI-SAN SAID,
IN FACT, DEEP DOWN IN MY HEART, I DO DREAM OF AIMING FOR THE NATIONAL LEVEL
BUT AFTER THE FAILURE LAST YEAR, I REA-LIZED WHAT THE REALITY WAS.
I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO SPEAK OUT
SUCH A GRAND GOAL UNDER THOSE CIR-CUMSTAN-CES.
..NO, I ALSO SAID A LOT OF UNNE-CESSARY THINGS.
BECAUSE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE JOINED A CLUB, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS APPRO-
WELL, I'M STILL NOT QUITE SURE
BUT I WILL TRY MY BEST TO UNDER-STAND.
CAN I...
..RECEIVE YOUR PER-MISSION TO JOIN THE CLUB ONCE AGAIN?
SFX HOLD OUT

THEN WE CAN OFFICIALLY PROCEED TOWARDS OUR GOAL OF PLAYING AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL!
GREAT!
grin
OF COURSE!
I COULD HAVE ENTERED ANY SCHOOL TO DO THAT.
. BECAUSE OF THAT GOAL
.. IT WASN'T...
That point didn't change.
Ehh...
BUT..
EH...
DO YOU MEAN...
SFX CLATTER 2X

WH-WH-WHY ARE YOU GUYS HERE ?
BRAT!
DON'T DROP THE TOOLS!
AH..
OH, FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL?
AH, WE'RE FROM THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB
AH! IT MUST BE DIFFICULT,
TO HAVE SUCH A STUPID MEMBER.
JEEZ, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SFX. TURN
UM...
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, COULD WE HELP AS WELL?
!
WHAT ?
HUH . YOU'RE...
!

TCH...
WE'RE ALL ALLIES FROM THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
IS THERE...
ANY-THING YOU NEED HELP WITH?
DON'T..

THIS IS MY OWN BUSINESS! YOU TWO GET OUT!
DON'T JOKE WITH ME!
AND I WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TO BE ABLE TO HELP HERE...
THEN I'LL BE RELYING ON YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
WAIT, OLD WOMAN!
WHY ARE YOU TREATING THEM SO DIFFERENTLY FROM ME?!
HUH?!
YOU'RE REALLY NOISY
THERE, THERE
BY THE WAY, THAT BASTARD TETSUKI SPILLED THE BEANS! I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
Achoo!

You bastard! Why did you give out my info!
Who cares? It came out well anyway.
Don't you know how embarassed I was!!
I know I'll treat you to strawberry pudding

#3 僕らの入部動機

#3 OUR MOTIVE FOR JOINING THE CLUB

YOSH.
THIS IS THE LAST ONE.
clatter
THEN OUR WORK HERE IS DONE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
SFX TEARY
じーん…
WE CAN FINALLY START OUR CLUB ACTIVITIES!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WE'VE GOT OUR KOTOS BACK, BUT IF WE DON'T GET TWO MORE MEMBERS BY THE END OF THE MONTH, OUR CLUB WILL BE DISBANDED
UGH.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF A CERTAIN SOMEONE
NOT EVEN A SINGLE PERSON HAS COME AROUND TO VISIT.

"THAT GUY SEEMS TO HAVE JOINED THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB."
EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT IT
THAT'S WHY PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO JOIN!
IT SEEMS YOU'VE CAUSED QUITE A BIT OF TROUBLE
YOU'RE A FAMOUS DELINQUENT AROUND HERE?
I'VE HEARD THAT
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
IT WOULD BE ALL YOUR FAULT!
.. BECAUSE WE COULDN'T GET ANY NEW MEMBERS,
SO IF THE CLUB WERE TO BE DISBANDED . .
SFX CRACKLE 3X
YOU'RE A WOMAN WHO PISSES PEOPLE OFF.
Hmph
SO YOU'RE NOT DENYING IT?
WE DON'T NEED A COWARD WITH NO AMBITION JUST BECAUSE I'M HERE!
SHUT UP!
YOU TWO, CALM DOWN.
I'VE BEEN SURROUNDED BY ADULTS SINCE I WAS YOUNG, SO NO ONE'S QUALIFIED TO BE IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS ME!
SORRY FOR THAT!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! SOMEONE LIKE YOU DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS!
CAN'T YOU JUST BRING ONE OR TWO OF YOUR FRIENDS OVER?

EH?!
WHO SAYS I CAN'T PLAY THE KOTO?!
YOU'RE REALLY USE-LESS.
AS FOR YOU .. PEOPLE ARE SCARED OF YOU, AND YOU CAN'T EVEN PLAY THE KOTO.
BE-SIDES,
THE TOTAL VALUE OF EVEN A HUNDRED MEMBERS WOULDN'T MAKE UP FOR MY TALENT AND STRENGTH, RIGHT?
EH...
FOUR-EYES, BRING ME THE KOTO! THE ONE I'M POIN-TING AT!
I WAS PLA-NNING TO!!!
Hmph
THEN SHOW ME
IT'S NOT A LIE. I'LL SHOW YOU!
KUDOU-KUN, A LIE LIKE THAT...
KU-
sit

OKAY, STOP CHATTING AND PLAY SOMETHING, THOUGH I'M NOT EXPECTING MUCH FROM YOU.
WELL, THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH TO WHAT I'D IMAGINED.
TCH. .
HUH?!
IT'S A BASIC RULE THAT YOU SIT SEIZA-STYLE WHEN DOING A SEATED PERFORMANCE
THAT'S NOT IT, KUDOU-KUN.
Crossing your legs is...
Seated Performance means to perform while sitting down
YOU'RE OUT
I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED PLAYING!
Look closely
These are the techniques I learned from Grandpa!
touch
Dammit.
I'm being treated like an idiot by this woman.
She's just a little better on the koto.
PING
.....

?
WH-
WHAT'S WRONG, KUDOU-KUN?
PING
?
HUH..
THE SOUND'S DIFFERENT.
I'M SURE I PLAYED IT CORRECTLY!
HEY, FOUR-EYES! THIS KOTO IS DEFECTIVE!
UM, NO...
MAYBE IT NEEDS TUNING..?
YEAH. HOW SHOULD I EXPLAIN IT..
THE KOTO HAS THIRTEEN STRINGS.
THE MOVABLE BRIDGES ARE ADJUSTED DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE SONG.
THIS IS CALLED TUNING.
...
TUNING..?

BOOF
THEN THE SOUND WILL BE DIFFERENT EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE PLUCKING THE CORRECT STRING.
IF THE KOTO'S TUNING DOESN'T MATCH YOUR SONG'S,
THAT'S WHY IT NEEDS TUNING.
SONGS ARE DIFFERENT, SO THE PITCHES THEY NEED ALSO DIFFER.
Blah
Blah
grin
WAS THIS WHAT YOU MEANT BY "KNOWING HOW TO PLAY"?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH
YOUR POSE IS WRONG,
AND YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT TUNING.
IT IS A BIT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHEN EXPLAINED IN WORDS.
SPEAK PROPER JAPANESE ... SPEAK JAPANESE
SPEAK
I DON'T KNOW THE SONG'S NAME!
EH?
NO IDEA!
AND YOU SAY YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY?!
DO-DON'T MIND HER, I'LL HELP YOU TUNE!
!!!
SHAKE
WHAT SONG ARE YOU PLAYING, KUDOU-KUN?!
Shoujo Sense

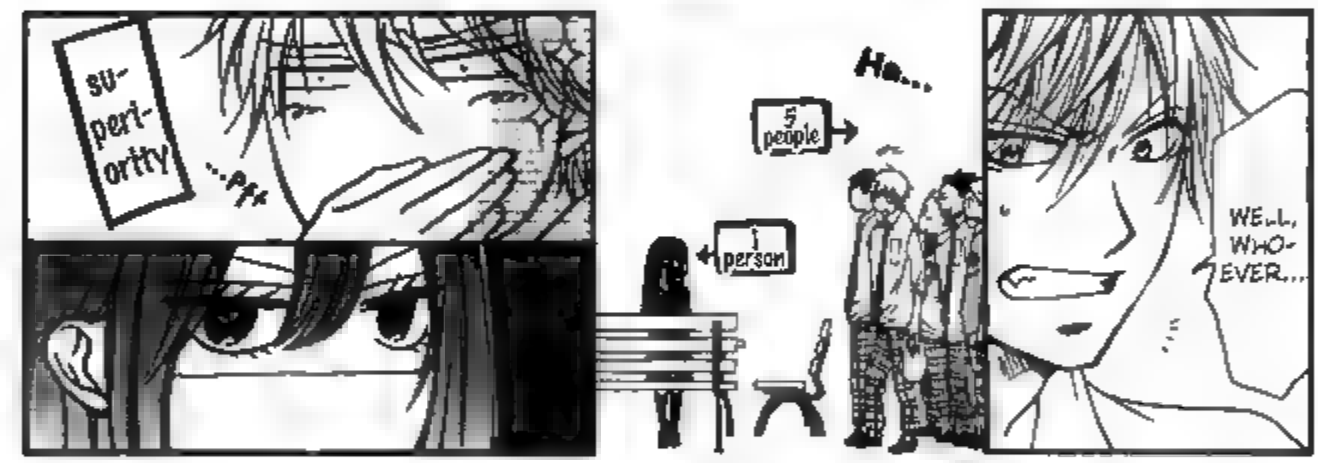
SFX DOOM
SFX PITIFUL
YOU'RE PITIFUL.
I DON'T THINK "EMBARRASSING" IS A STRONG ENOUGH WORD TO DESCRIBE YOU.
WELL, YOU'RE ONLY AN AMATEUR, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED
IF POSSIBLE, HOUTSUKI-SAN CAN TEACH HIM...
SFX: RAGE
HEADLOCK
I WANT FOUR-EYES TO TEACH ME!
DON'T JOKE WITH ME! I DON'T WANT TO BE TAUGHT BY THIS WOMAN!
EHH?!
DRAGS
LET'S GO, FOUR-EYES! SPECIAL TRAINING!
EXCEED THAT WOMAN IN A WEEK'S TIME!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
SO STUPID..
SIGH
Schedule
April
May
HM...

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE TO QUICKLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS!
Actually, I want Houtsuki-san to teach me koto too.
WAIT A MINUTE! SHOULD I BE THE ONE PLANNING FOR THE TRAINING SCHEDULE WHEN THERE'S HOUTSUKI-SAN?!
Ha
THE TRAINING SCHEDULE'S SO HARD TO ARRANGE
ONE'S A PROFESSIONAL, THE OTHER'S AN AMATEUR,
AND THEY DON'T GET ALONG
Today we received the kotos and that's all we did
PSSh
battery flat
I...
...really don't suit the role of "President"...
I was the only one left, so I became "President"...
SFX NOISE ZX
No!
You can't, Takezou! Stay strong!
Ha
SHAKE
SHAKE
It'll be fine! No one's an expert from the start!

HEY, YOU ALL RIGHT CHIKA? YOU DON'T LOOK TOO WELL.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY YESTERDAY READING ABOUT KOTO.
MY HEAD'S ALL CLOGGED UP RIGHT NOW
IF YOU'RE NOT USED TO IT, JUST FORGET IT
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT KOTO.
I HAVE TO STUDY.
AUNTIE, I WANT A YAKISOBA, A CROQUETTE, AND A SPECIAL STRAWBERRY ROLL.
IS KOTO THAT HARD?
I want a pork sandwich and an onigiri set.
Okay.
YEAH. MORE COMPLICATED THAN WOMEN.
SERIOUSLY?
OH, YEAH. SANE AND THEM WANTED TO SEE YOU.
THEY SAID THEY COULDN'T BUMP INTO YOU, THOUGH YOU'RE AT THE SAME SCHOOL.
HUH? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? IT'S DISGUSTING.
SFX TAP SX
SFX POUNCE
CHIKA!
shock

munch munch
WE FOUND YOU AT LAST, CHIKA.
SANE MITTSU.
HI.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
OH, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
TCH
BY THE WAY, CHIKA.
DID YOU REALLY JOIN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB?
pick up
WHY NOT? ♡
DON'T STICK TO ME, KOUTA! IT'S DISGUSTING!
IT'S FINE THE MORE THE MERRIER
rage rage
YOU BASTARDS
YUP, YUP.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? LET'S EAT TOGETHER.
happy
DON'T FOLLOW ME, YOU THREE!
AH, THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU'RE ANNOYING!
A ROLE MODEL FOR GRANDCHILDREN.
UGH, DON'T CRY BASTARD!
TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF YOUR DECEASED GRANDPA.
Shinja Sense

SFX PISSED
ばったり
GEH.
EH?
AN ACQUAINTANCE!
UWAH, SO CUTE! WHO'S THAT?!
happy


WE..L, WHO-EVER...
Ha...
5 people
1 person
su-peri-ority
...Pft

stand
HELLO, KUDOU-KUN.
(にっこり
ARE THEY YOUR FRIENDS?
SFX SMILE

SHIVER
YUP, WE'RE ALL FRIENDS OF KUDOU-KUN'S.
WOW YOU GUYS LOOK CLOSE I'M ENVIOUS.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
MY NAME'S HOUTSUKI SATOWA. I'M HIS CLASSMATE, AND I'M ALSO IN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
NICE TO MEET YOU!!!
HEY!!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT IN FRONT OF SUCH A CUTE GIRL?!
RIGHT! THAT'S CRUEL!
TCH
YOU THREE DON'T BE TRICKED! THIS PERSON HAS AN EXTREME SPLIT PERSONALITY
THE OTHER PERSONALITY IS REALLY CROOKED ..
SFX KNOCK
EH.. SO YOU STARTED PLAYING KOTO AT THE AGE OF THREE!
THAT'S AMAZING, HOUTSUKI-SAN!
NO, IT'S NOTHING
HEY, CHIKA! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US EARLIER THAT THERE WAS SUCH A CUTE GIRL IN YOUR CLUB?
TCH...
THAT'S GREAT GOING TO CLUB WITH A CUTE GIRL AFTER SCHOOL!
THIS IS YOUTH! I SHOULD JOIN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
HUH?
WAH, WELCOME!
EH?

IF THERE WERE CHEERFUL PEOPLE LIKE YOU GUYS JOINING,
I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY.
ACTUALLY, BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEMBERS RIGHT NOW
IF WE STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND MORE MEMBERS BY THE END OF MAY
THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB WILL BE DISBANDED
SFX HEARTBEAT
shock
fighten
Pull

TEXT ARE YOU IDIOTS?
WAIT A MOMENT !!!
LET US BE THE SAVIORS OF THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB!!!
Shine
Shine
WE MUST HELP YOU OUT!
CHIKA'S CLUB IS IN TROUBLE.
NO, DON'T SAY ANY MORE
HUH?!
YOU'RE TREATING US AS OUTSIDERS. !
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS EARLIER?

THEY WON'T BE AFRAID OF YOU IF THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS, RIGHT?
I'M SAYING THOSE IDIOTS CAN'T EVEN PLAY KOTO!
IT'S FINE.
What do you want?
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?!
THOSE GUYS ARE NAIVE IDIOTS!
YOU'RE NOT SE-RIOUS, ARE YOU?!
IF THEIR NAMES ARE WRITTEN UNDER THE CLUB, THEN WE WON'T BE DISBANDED.
WELL, THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.
WHAT WE NEED ISN'T THEM, BUT THEIR NAMES.
Grin
SFX SHIVER
I'M USED TO BEING ALONE.
I DON'T NEED FRIENDS.
Y-YOU WON'T FIND ANY FRIENDS LIKE THIS. !
Dark-minded...!!
WE'RE GOING FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH NUMBER OF PEOPLE

HOUTSUKI-SAN, IS IT OKAY IF I WRITE THE APPLICATION FORM LIKE THIS?
MM.
YES.
SO,
THIS IS IT.
箏曲
SHINE
I'M MIZUHARA KOUTA.
SAKAI MICHITAKA.
SAVIOR OF THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB,
ADACHI SANEYASU.

SEN-PAI, WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR TODAY'S ACTIVITY?
AH, I'D PLANNED FOR US TO GO BUY KUDOU-KUN'S PLECTRUMS AT THE MUSIC INSTRUMENTS STORE
Of course, it's also to improve your relationship with him.
excited
excited
FEELS GREAT I'M NOT VERY SURE, BUT IT'S GREAT
SO WOW, THIS IS AMA-KOTO. ZING
S-
SAVIOR...? WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT ?
ching
DON'T MIND THEM.
THEY'LL GET BORED SOON.
PLEC-TRUMS...
SFX SHINE ZX
ACTUALLY, LET'S GO BUY THEM NOW!
He looks happy ...!
MY PLEC-TRUMS
BUT I GUESS IT'S BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE ENOUGH MEMBERS, AND THEN GO BUY...
SFX GYA ZX
Welcome
I'M SATISFIED WITH HOU-TSUKI-SAN ALONE!
Why are you following us, anyway?
TOO BAD I'M WITH A BUNCH OF IDIOTS. SO DISAPPOIN-TING
RELAX-ING WITH EVERYONE AFTER SCHOOL IS REALLY FUN.
AH JUST LIKE THIS,
noise
noise

NOT AT ALL..
YOUR GLUTTONOUS PERSONALITY AWOKE?
SO I WANTED TO BUY SOMETHING AS A PRESENT.
WE WERE UNDER THE CARE OF THE STORE OWNER BEFORE,
May I have one of those, please?
..
NOT REALLY
ISN'T THAT TOO SOLEMN?
A PRESENT
Is she really an Ojou-sama from a wealthy family?
NOTHING..
SO YOU LEARNED HOW TO PLAY KOTO FROM YOUR PARENTS?
..SO WHAT?
I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT THAT IS.
A KOTO FAMILY OR WHATEVER..
DOES THAT MEAN YOUR PARENTS ALSO PLAY KOTO?

YES...
THAT WILL BE 1200 YEN IN TOTAL.
WHA-
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
SFX SLAM
SFX. BONK
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO PAY!
ゴン!
WAIT!
SHUT UP!
I WAS THE ONE BEING TAKEN CARE OF, SO I SHOULD PAY!
HUH.
作科楽祭
Wh... Why...

Why does their relationship seem to have gotten worse...?
Uwah! Amazing, there are so many!
IT SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN NOISIER.
I'M SORRY.
HERE ARE THE PLECTRUMS AND RINGS
CHOOSE A SUITABLE ONE
UWAH- WHAT'S THIS?!
AMAZING, THERE ARE SO MANY KINDS.
YOUR SCHOOL'S IKUTARYUU, RIGHT?
THEN CHOOSE THIS "EDGED PICK".
T/N: IKUTARYUU S ONE OF THE STYLES OF KOTO
How should I put this on ?
seri-ous
So these were originally separated...
Ah.
YOU DON'T PUT THEM ON ALL THE FINGERS
And it's the other way around
DOES IT SUIT ME?
Shi-ne
How did they make this?
CAN YOU HELP TSUKI-KUDOU-KUN SAN, CHOOSE HIS PLECTRUMS?
HUH?!

Don't "gya gya" here, Idiots.
PLEASE
AND SHIZU-SAN IS HELPING THOSE THREE RIGHT NOW
BECAUSE I CAN'T HELP AT ALL.
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME?
DON'T JOKE WITH ME!
Who needs the help of this woman?
HAND.
LET ME TAKE A LOOK.
HAND
...

It's so hard...?
...What's with her hand?

...Her hand's tiny...
And she's able to play like that...
Hn?

"...surrounded by koto since I was born..."
Wha...
AH!
YEAH!
CAN HE TRY ON THE PLEC-TRUMS?
HM.
TRY THEM ON.
HERE THIS, THIS, AND THAT.
FIRST, RIP OFF THE EDGE OF THE RING.
THEN STICK ON THE PLEC-TRUM WITH GLUE OR TAPE,
AND WAIT FOR THE GLUE TO DRY
ONCE YOU'VE CHOSEN YOUR PLEC-TRUMS AND RINGS,
SO SLY, CHIKA! YOU'RE BEING TAKEN CARE OF BY HOUTSUKI-SAN ALL BY YOURSELF.
I'M SORRY THAT I'M THE ONE HELPING YOU.

DONE!
OHH.
Pretty easy.
JUST THESE THREE FINGERS?
YUP JUST USE THE OTHER FINGERS DIRECTLY
fidget
fidget
EVERY-ONE HAS THEIRS?
YES!
THEN...
...5000 YEN EACH.
5... 5000 YEN?!
EH, IT'S NOT FREE?!
OF COURSE WHAT WERE YOU NOT HERE FOR?
Shit, I totally forgot about having to pay..!
Those plectrums are made from ivory. They're quite expensive

..UM,
TOMOR-
ROW..
605 yen
HOW SHOULD I SAY IT
IT WAS JUST ON A WHIM.
WE'RE NOT REALLY RIGHT?
...
clink
worry worry worry
.. SO...
. 605 YEN.
TOMOR-
ROW.
I WILL BRING THE MONEY OVER...
takes off
...I'LL COME BACK WHEN I'VE SAVED ENOUGH MONEY...
depressed...
MONEY DOESN'T JUST FALL FROM THE SKY
UGH...
DO YOU HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY?
THAT THINGS WILL WORK OUT

DROPS
Pull
SORRY, KUDOU-KUN. I WAS CARE-LESS.
Ahhh, and you were so excited...
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, FOUR-EYES!

THOSE SWEETS YOU BOUGHT THEM, RIGHT?

EH...

WHAT?
IT'S THE TRUTH, ISN'T IT?
turn

I'LL TAKE THAT AS PAYMENT FOR YOUR PLECTRUMS.
SO TOGETHER WITH THE BOX OF SWEETS,
BESIDES, YOU DID KIND OF HELP REPAIR THE KOTOS.
EH? THEN HOW ABOUT OURS?
I'M NOT KIND ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE WHO DON'T EVEN WANT TO PLAY.
It's true

...
I'LL TREASURE THEM...
THAT'S WHY I'M GIVING THEM TO YOU.
CHIKA REALLY WANTS TO LEARN KOTO.

SANE?
EH?
UM.
...
BUT HOUTSUKI-SAN WAS SO HAPPY
CHIKA SHOULD UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?
AND TO THINK WE HANDED IN THE APPLICATION FORM HALF-HEARTEDLY WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
FORMS CLUB APPLICATION
入部届
入部届
LISTEN UP...
...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DEPUTY HEAD-MASTER?
THE DELIN-QUENTS FROM NISHI MIDDLE SCHOOL ALL JOINING THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
AND THEY'RE FRIENDS OF KUDOU'S.
"What Grandpa treasured... I want to come to know it."

BORING.
Hmph...
SFX SLURUCH
HOW WAS YESTERDAY?
DID SANE AND THEM JOIN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB?
BUT IT'S QUITE INTERESTING
A GROUP OF GANGSTERS GATHERING IN THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
HOW'S IT INTERESTING?
JUDGING BY THEIR TEMPERS, THEY PROBABLY WON'T COME ANYMORE.
NOTHING MUCH
THEY WENT BACK AFTER THEY PLAYED AROUND
AH.
AS EXPECTED?
THEY REALLY LIKE TO STICK WITH YOU.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT IN THE PAST, THOUGH.
There's nothing to be happy about.

happy
HOUTSUKI-SAN DIDN'T COME WITH YOU?
happy
YO, CHIKA.
YOU'RE LATE.

SFX DOOM

HUH?!
RIGHT. WE DON'T PLAN ON PLAYING KOTO.
BUT YOU DON'T PLAN ON PLAYING KOTO!
Forget it, if you're only playing around!

DIDN'T WE SAY WE WERE JOINING THE CLUB?
WHY ARE YOU GUYS HERE AGAIN?!
SO CRUEL, YOU MEANIE.

I have a bad feeling about this...
WE HEARD FROM PRESIDENT FOUR-EYES.
A COMPETITION? YOU GUYS WON'T BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE WITHOUT US?
BLUNTLY SPOKEN, WE'RE ONLY HERE TO FILL OUT THE NUMBERS.
SO THE CLUB WON'T BE DISBANDED.
WE WERE ONLY PLAYING AROUND AT FIRST,
BUT NOW WE'LL LEND OUR NAMES TO THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB!
AND SO WE DECIDED!

SINCE WE DIDN'T PLAN TO JOIN ANY CLUBS!
THEN HOU-TSUKI-SAN WON'T HAVE TO WORRY!
HEY... YOU GUYS..
You fell into that person's trap.
Wow~ We're geniuses!
SANE SAID HE WOULD ASSIST CHIKA.
Hahaha
AH?! I DIDN'T!
YOU DID! FRIEND-SHIP IS SO WARM. Shy~
SHUT UP, IDIOT! YOU'RE NOISY!
HUH?! WHO'S THE IDIOT?! SAY IT AGAIN!
SFX CLATTER
SFX BAM
Ahahaha
Uwaaah
GO FIGHT ELSE-WHERE!
Don't just laugh, Kouta!
WHO ELSE COULD IT BE IF IT'S NOT YOU?!
YOU'RE THE DIS-GUSTING ONE, BEING SO SHY!

...
HMPH.
AS EX-
PECTED.
EH...
WHO'S
THAT?
I KNEW IT
WOULD BE
LIKE THIS.
D-
DEPUTY
HEAD-
MASTER!
TCH.
I
WAS
RIGHT
TO
COME
LOOK
THERE'S
NO WAY
PEOPLE
LIKE YOU
WOULD
JOIN A
CLUB
EARNES-
TLY.
WHAT
?
ARE YOU
PLANNING TO
USE THIS
PLACE TO
FIGHT?
OR A PLACE
TO SKIP
LESSONS?

I WON'T APPROVE OF SUCH A LOUSY CLUB
IF THE HEADMASTER SAW THIS SCENE, HE WOULD DEFINITELY CHANGE HIS MIND TOO
HUH?
NO IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! THEY WERE JUST JOKING!
NO EXCUSES.
DON'T JUDGE WHETHER WE'RE SERIOUS OR NOT JUST LIKE THAT
WHO WOULD GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF JOINING THE CLUB IF THEY WERE ONLY PLAYING AROUND?
I WILL GO REPORT NOW, AND TAKE ACTION.
EVIDENCE?
HMPH.
THEN BRING OUT YOUR EVIDENCE
EVIDENCE THAT YOU'RE LEARNING HOW TO PLAY KOTO SERIOUSLY.
CAN YOU PLAY SOMETHING FOR ME RIGHT NOW?
THAT'S UNREASONABLE!
THAT-
EVERYONE'S STILL A BEGINNER THEY'RE JUST ABOUT TO START LEARNING!

LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN GIVE A PERFORMANCE WITHIN A WEEK THAT I'M SATISFIED WITH.
THEN I'LL GIVE YOU ONE WEEK'S TIME.
...
HMM.
IF YOU CAN DO THAT, THEN I'LL APPROVE OF YOU.
ONE MONTH.
?!
!
I'LL CONVINCE YOU IN A WEEK...
THAT'S FINE WITH ME!
nervous
THAT ALSO
I DON'T WANT TO WASTE TIME EITHER.
IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAN'T

HOUTSUKI-SAN !
SORRY TO INTE-RRUPT
I'M ALSO A MEMBER OF THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.
?!
AND YOU ARE?
CAN YOU AT LEAST GIVE US ONE MONTH'S TIME?
IT'S TRUE THAT OUR MEMBERS ARE A BIT ILL-MANNERED.
I CAN SEE WHY YOU'RE WORRIED, SENSE!
BUT WE'RE ALL SERIOUS ABOUT CLUB ACTIVITIES.
.. TO PLAY A SIMPLE SONG IN ONE WEEK...
THERE'S NO PROB-LEM FOR US...
..
BUT TO GET SENSE'S FULL APPRO-VAL, THAT ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.
SO WE NEED A MONTH.

...THAT WILL BE APPROVED OF NOT ONLY BY YOU, DEPUTY HEADMASTER, BUT BY ALL THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.
BY THEN, WE WILL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO GIVE A PERFORMANCE...
IF YOU CAN GIVE US A MONTH'S TIME,
!
ビーッ
SFX SHOCK
WAIT, HOU-TSUKI-SAN...?!
HA.
HAHAHA
SURE THAT'S THAT THEN!
ALL THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS?!
IF YOU CAN DO IT, OF COURSE I'LL APPROVE OF YOU ALL!
MAHA.
BY THAT TIME, YOU WILL CERTAINLY APPROVE OF OUR KOTO MUSIC CLUB, RIGHT?

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A MONTH LATER.
HOU-
HOU-
SFX BAM
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?! WHY DID YOU SAY THAT?!
HOU-TSUKI-SAN?!
BECAUSE THAT DEPUTY HEADMASTER WANTED TO CRUSH THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB.

A splendid performance
THAT'S EASY TO SAY...
THEN HE WON'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO DISAPPROVE OF US.
IF WE'RE ABLE TO GIVE A SPLENDID PERFORMANCE IN FRONT OF EVERYONE,
ON THE OTHER HAND,

Compared to raging at us
AH.. THIS IS MAKING US FEEL MORE ASHAMED
IT'S MY FAULT.
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK THROUGH IT PROPERLY WHEN I LET THEM JOIN THE CLUB.
I'M SORRY, SENPAI.

...WILL DEFINITELY USE "CANNOT APPROVE" AS AN EXCUSE TO ATTACK OUR CLUB.
IF WE GIVE AN AVERAGE PERFORMANCE, THEN THE DEPUTY HEADMASTER...

SORRY!!!
STOP RIGHT THERE!
CHIKA-KUN.
Pat
glare
KYA!
YOU GUYS ALREADY KNOW HOW TO PLAY.
SO...
SO ISN'T THIS OKAY?!
WORRY
ONE MONTH.
IF I...
...PUT ALL MY EFFORT INTO LEARNING KOTO, IT'LL WORK OUT, RIGHT?!
KUDOU-KUN..

BUT IT'LL BE ANOTHER PROBLEM IF THERE AREN'T ENOUGH MEMBERS.
I GUESS WE CAN ONLY EXCUSE OURSELVES FROM THE CLUB.
We'd only be a hindrance.
BUT WE CAN'T REALLY GO PLAY KOTO.
HAA.. CHIKA'S ANGRY
AH.
BUT WITHOUT THOSE THREE, THE CLUB WILL STILL BE DISBANDED
LOCK THAT ROOM UP
THE KOTO MUSIC CLUB WILL BE DISBANDED IN A MONTH.
DON'T LET ANY UNHEALTHY MORALE SPREAD OUT
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THAT KUDOU AND THE OTHERS WILL REALLY PLAY KOTO.
NO MATTER HOW I SEE IT,
DEPUTY HEADMASTER,
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THOSE GUYS AFTERWARDS?
..SHOULD BE SENT TO THE REFORMATORY.
DANGEROUS DELINQUENTS LIKE KUDOU...
THE POLICE ARE REALLY UNRELIABLE.
KOTO OR WHATEVER..

SFX: KNOCK 2x
HEY, SANEYA-SU!
DAM-MIT..
SANE!
TCH...
If we join, we'll have to give a satisfying performance in a month's time.
They won't have enough members if we don't join.
...
DO YOU HEAR ME?!
COME OUT RIGHT NOW!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY IN THE BATH-ROOM?!
"But that guy's reputation isn't that good, is it?"
"Just an ill-fated relationship since we were young."
And you're not even in the same class.
"Hey, Tetsuki, why are you and Class C's Kudou so close?"
but koto... I know too little to be confident!
If it was a guitar, I could still play a bit..
AH...

SFX: BUMP
WHAT IS TETSUKI THINKING?
Right.
HEY!
Haha
MAYBE.
IT'S NOT FUNNY!
THAT'S RIGHT IT'S DANGEROUS!
ISN'T IT BETTER NOT TO STAY TOO CLOSE TO HIM?
HE HANGS AROUND WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL'S UZUKI.
They haven't been to school.
SFX: THUD!
GAH!
HUH?
SHOCK
HA...
FUCK
WE CAN'T JUST LET THEM GO WITHOUT TEACHING THEM A LESSON.
THERE ARE STILL SOME VERY SCARY BIG BROTHERS IN THIS WORLD.
cough cough
HOW TROUBLESOME.
MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS NOWADAYS ARE A BIT STUCK-UP.
W-
WAIT.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
HEY!

STOP!
?!
KU-KUDOU?!
drip drip
SFX: GRAB
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BASTARD?!
KUDOU. KUDOU FROM NISHI MIDDLE SCHOOL?!
WHAT ?! NISHI MIDDLE SCHOOL?
HEY WHY ARE YOU INTERRUPTING?
THOSE GUYS ARE WITH YOU?
UH-HUH.
?!
HMPH. INTERESTING.
I HEAR YOU HAVE A BAD TEMPER.
I'LL PLAY WITH YOU, THEN!

wipe
huff
huff
WHY ..?
WE'RE NOT EVEN FRIENDS ..
...
AREN'T YOU...
...ALWAYS HANGING AROUND WITH TETSUKI?

Only a friend of a friend,
and he's still willing to help that much.
Bleeding from blocking the knife...
"Hey, is your hand all right...?!"
"Shut up."
"...I will treasure it..."
"The koto music club will be disbanded in a month."
"...should be sent to the reformatory."
That's what I've thought all along.
...in order to return the favor.
When that guy argues with someone next time, I'll also help him...
SFX GRAB
AH, YOU'RE FINALLY OUT!
bam
SFX SMASH

Returning the favor like this...
...is accep-table too, right...?!
WHAT?
YOU CAME TOO.
!
WELL, IT'S NOTHING BAD.
HEY, IT'S COLD
Embarrassing... for real
UWAH, WE'RE REALLY
WE'RE REALLY GOOD FRIENDS.
IT'S EMBA-RRASSING TO HAVE HAD THE SAME THING IN MIND.
JEEZ.
YOU GUYS...!
SINCE WE'RE...
...QUITE FREE?

HEY, GRANNY! I WANT TO BUY THAT!
THE THINGS YOU WEAR ON YOUR FINGERS!
GIVE US THREE SETS!
SFX SLIDE
WHY...
WH...
SFX SHINE
HUH?!
YOU REALLY DON'T UNDER-STAND U.S.
DID YOU THINK WE WOULD RUN AWAY JUST LIKE THAT?
HEY, CHIKA-KUN.
YOU MUST BE HAPPY TO SEE US AGAIN.
JEEZ, CALM DOWN.
WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?!

YAY!
Kya Kya
SHIT, WE'RE TOO COOL!
I'M ALREADY CAPTIVATED!
THOSE IDIOTS
fret fret
High-five!
shine
WE WON'T MAKE GIRLS SAD!
WE'RE RESPONSIBLE GENTLEMEN!
HOUTSUKI-SAN.♡
That's right.
SO NOW . . EVERYONE'S AN OFFICIAL MEMBER, RIGHT?
EH?
YOU REALLY HELPED US.
MUCH MORE NAIVE THAN I THOUGHT ...

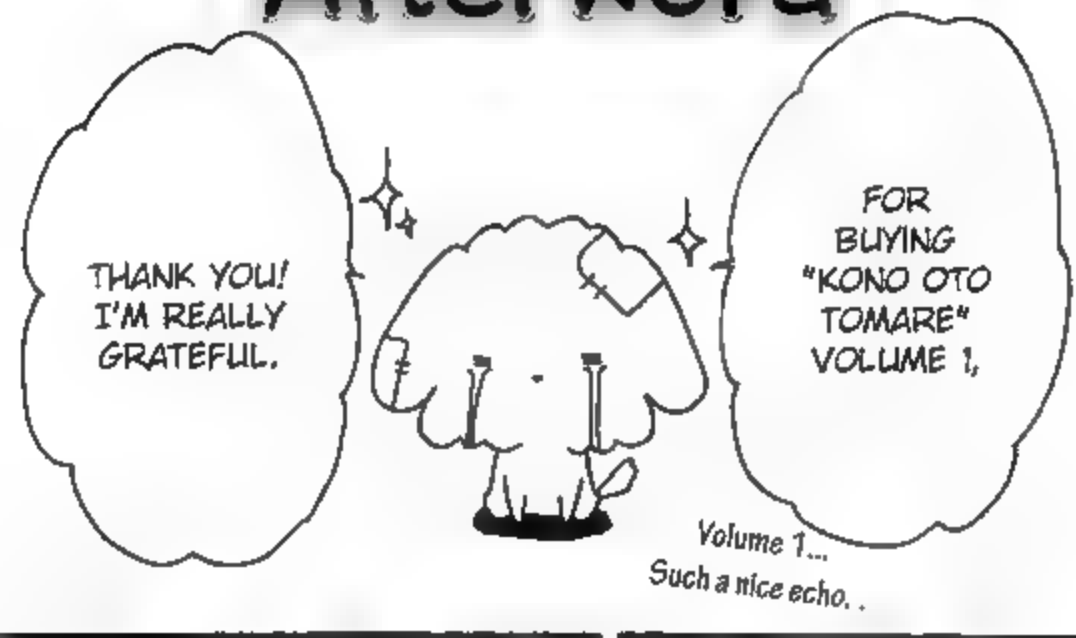
I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY IF YOU HINDER US. REMEMBER THAT.
HOU-HOUTSUKI-SAN...?
DURING THIS MONTH, YOU HAVE TO PARTICI-PATE IN ALL CLUB ACTIVI-TIES.
I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU.
UNTIL YOU BECOME AN OFFICIAL MEMBER WHO CAN ACTUALLY PLAY KOTO.
I never thought they would actually join...
THAT'S WHY I SAID..
THIS CAN'T BE REAL!
SFX STUNNED
I never thought we'd have such a group of members...
Go away! You're annoying!
Chika, tell me this is a dream!
Uwaah!
We've finally solved the problem with the number of members...
The new koto music club, filled with worrisome elements...
...is finally moving forward.

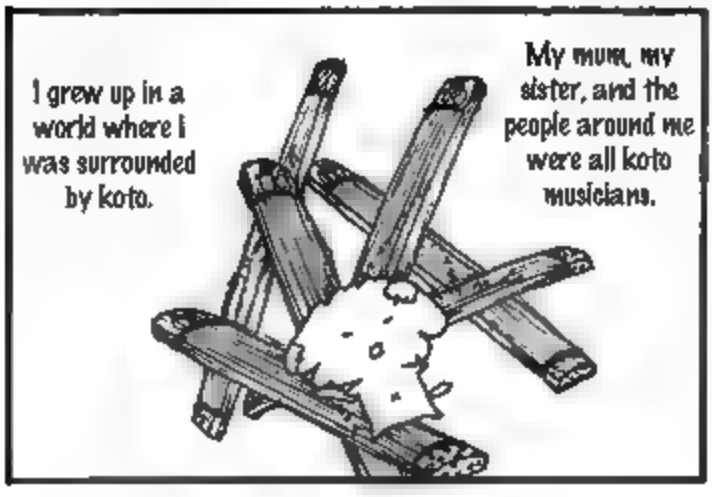
Tetsuki listen! Houtsuki, she
Uwaah!

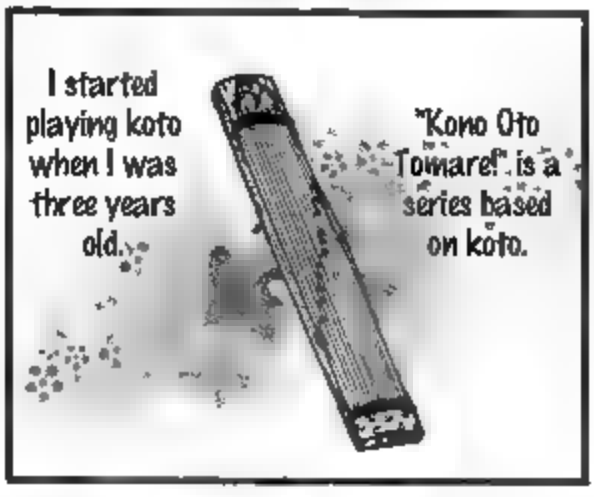
Of course. You'd been believing that pretend-to-be-good woman.
until now.

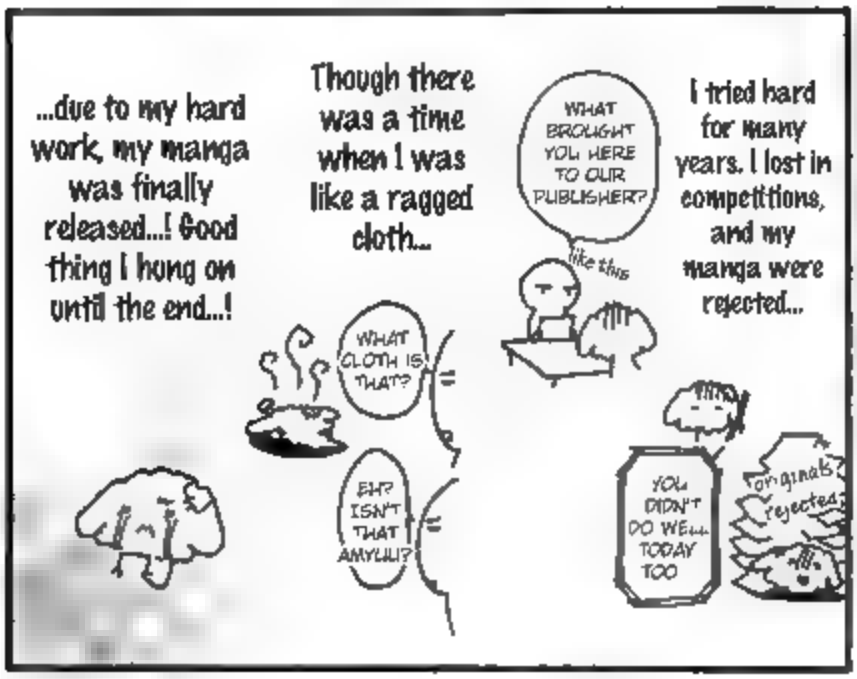
swoosh...

Afterword


THANK YOU! I'M REALLY GRATEFUL.
FOR BUYING "KONO OTO TOMARE" VOLUME 1,
Volume 1... Such a nice echo. .

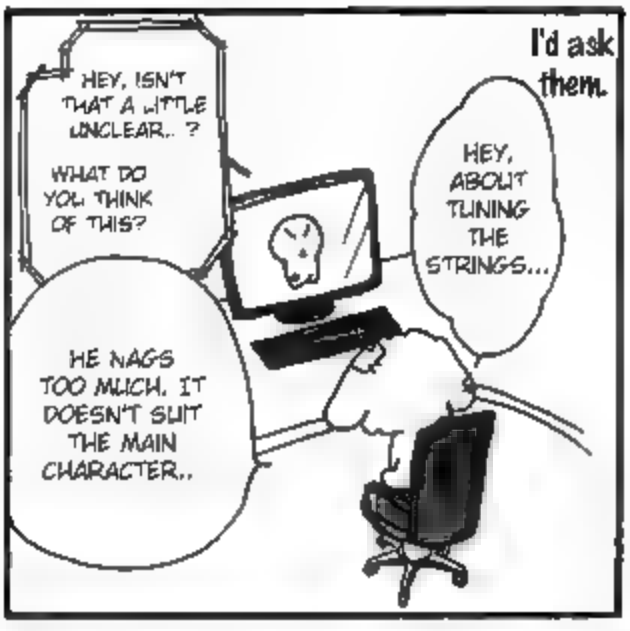

I grew up in a world where I was surrounded by koto.
My mum, my sister, and the people around me were all koto musicians.

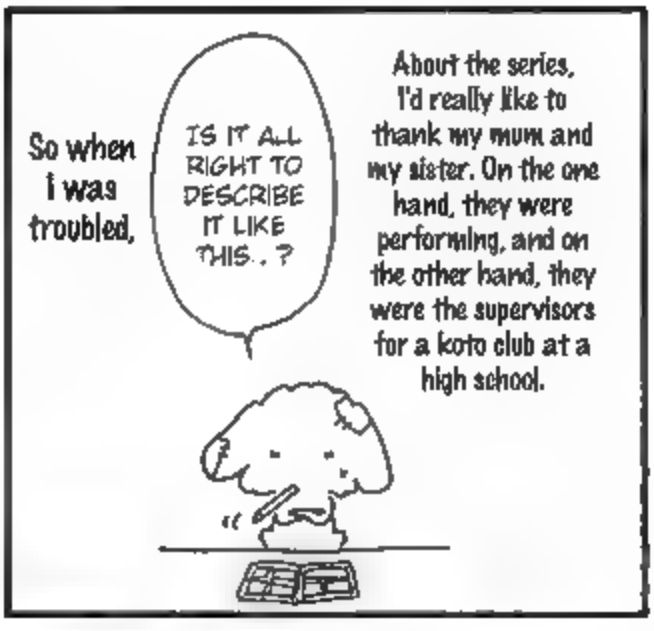

I started playing koto when I was three years old.
"Kono Oto Tomare!" is a series based on koto.

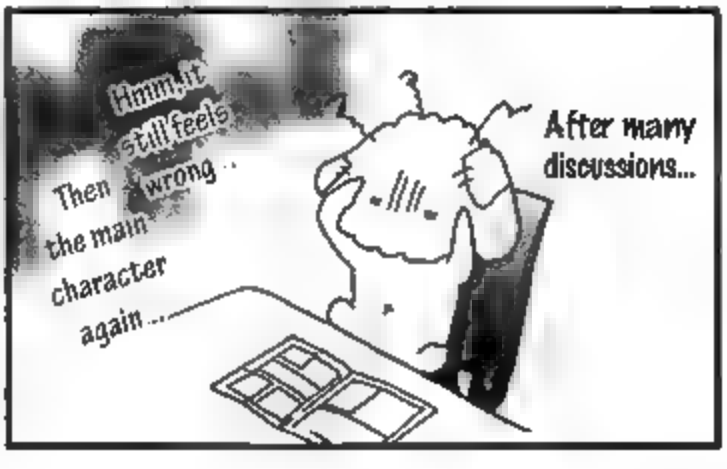

...due to my hard work, my manga was finally released...! Good thing I hung on until the end...!
Though there was a time when I was like a ragged cloth...
WHAT CLOTH IS THAT?
EH? ISN'T THAT AMYUU?
WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE TO OUR PUBLISHER?
like this
I tried hard for many years. I lost in competitions, and my manga were rejected...
YOU DIDN'T DO WELL TODAY TOO
original rejected

Ah... Ages ago ...!!!

I decided "to create a manga about koto!" when I was in primary school. Then, in the year xx...
That's great! Wahaha

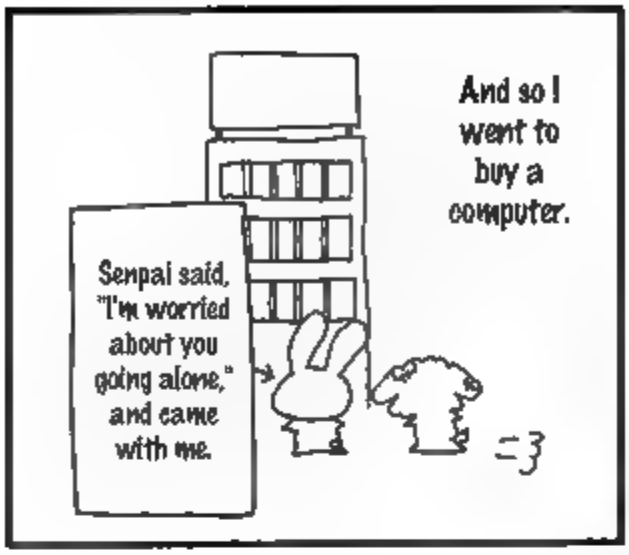

HEY, ISN'T THAT A LITTLE UNCLEAR..?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?
HE NAGS TOO MUCH. IT DOESN'T SUIT THE MAIN CHARACTER..
HEY, ABOUT TUNING THE STRINGS...
I'd ask them.


So when I was troubled,
IS IT ALL RIGHT TO DESCRIBE IT LIKE THIS..?
About the series, I'd really like to thank my mum and my sister. On the one hand, they were performing, and on the other hand, they were the supervisors for a koto club at a high school.



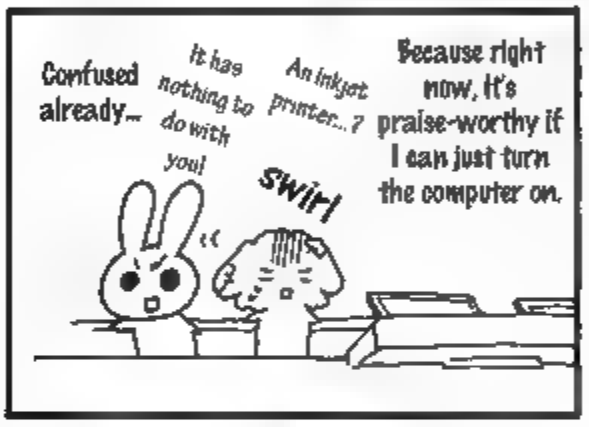
"Kono Oto Tomare!" only covers a small section of what koto is about. It's my honor to have your attention.

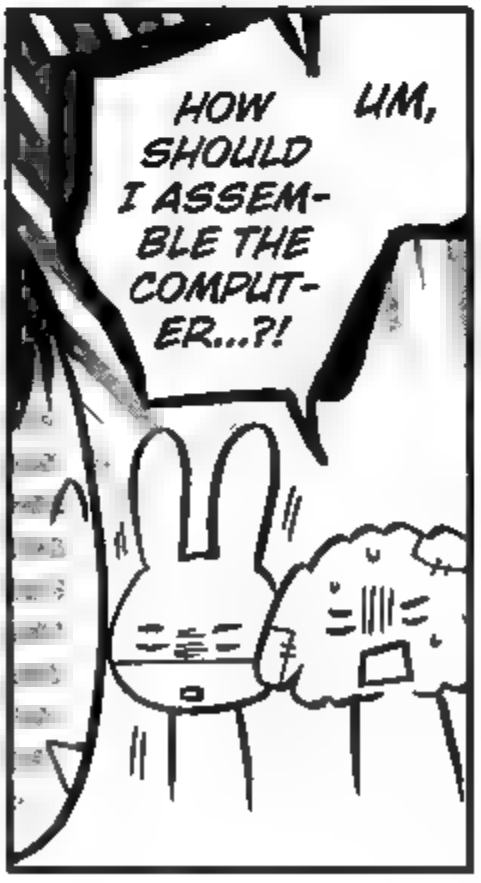
Actually, there are a lot of styles related to koto. That's why there are different ways to play and teach.



I decided...
LET'S USE THIS CHANCE TO LEARN HOW TO DRAW WITH A COMPUTER!
After it was released...
Just some unrelated mumbles of mine...
I can only take the challenge now!
Worried...

If I don't clarify it now...!
Right
Eh? I think so!
It's this model, right?
Shop assistant
Senpai and the shop-keeper were mostly the ones who took care of the transaction.


Confused already...
It has nothing to do with you!
An inkjet printer...?
SWIRL
Because right now, it's praise-worthy if I can just turn the computer on.



SFX GYAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

AN INTERNET CORD, RIGHT?
AH, RIGHT. LET'S GO BUY THE THING THAT CONNECTS IT TO THE INTERNET
Look, over there.
Mm
SORRY, SORRY.
Baka
HEY, YOU WERE TOO EMBARRASSING!
Plod Plod
WHAT'S UM, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO?
MAY I HELP YOU?
Many
LET'S ASK SOMEONE.
AH. SO MANY
WHICH ONE'S BETTER?
I'M REALLY SORRY
AHH. IT FEELS LIKE I'M SHOPPING WITH MY MUM!
So embarrassing...
SFX JH
Ah
DIFFERENT COLORS.
IS YOUR HOUSE A POOL?!
I troubled Senpai...
And also,
When I got home, I realized the cord wasn't long enough. (Why...) When I went to the shop again, under pressure, I bought a 20 meter long piece.

KUDOU CHIKA

- DOB: SEPTEMBER 2ND
- ZODIAC: VIRGO
- BLOOD TYPE: O
- HEIGHT: 178CM
- WEIGHT: 62KG
- SIBLINGS: ONLY CHILD
- FAVORITE FOODS: RICEBALLS AND ANYTHING SWEET
- FOOD HE DISLIKES: THINGS THAT ARE BITTER
- HOBBIES: SLEEPING, KOTO, READING MANGA AT TETSUKI'S HOUSE

⚠ BASICALLY, NOT INTERESTED IN ANYONE, BUT VERY FRIENDLY WITH CLOSE FRIENDS.

KURATA TAKEZOU
- DOB: APRIL 7TH
- ZODIAC: ARIES
- BLOOD TYPE: A
- HEIGHT: 165CM
- WEIGHT: 56KG
- SIBLINGS: ONE YOUNGER BROTHER
- FAVORITE FOOD: JAPANESE CUISINE
- FOOD HE DISLIKES: HEAVILY FLAVORED FOOD
- HOBBIES: STUDYING, MAKING PLANS FOR CLUB ACTIVITIES, PLAYING WITH HIS DOG
WILL FINISH ANYTHING THE RIGHT WAY, BUT ALWAYS FAILS WHEN FACED WITH PRESSURE, OR INFORMAL SITUATIONS.

SPECIAL THANKS

・朝吹まり 様　・彩原その 様
・杏堂まい 様　・壱川七宵 様
・岡野さえ 様　・木ノ下奈央 様
・平遠矢陸 様　・夕希実久 様

★ ★ ★

模ようこ 様

皆様 ご自分の原稿で忙しい中
助けて来てくださり 本当にありがとう
ございました"

担当編集
・林 壬平 様
―のくい出会いがなければ私は星と
星が自称中社長だ!! 違う!!

取材協力
たましげ 様
善導寺 中野 様
武修館高校筝曲部 様
ご協力 本当にありがとう
ございました"

コーラス協力　里木竜介 様
フォントデザイン　石野竜生 様
いつも お世話になっております

お神様
家族
友だち
いつもありがとう"

この本を
手にとって下さった
皆様
読んで下さって本当に
ありがとうございました

2巻も
どうぞよろしく
お願いいたします!

JUMP COMICS
ジャンプ・コミックス

ジャンプ・コミックス
この音とまれ！ 1
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Kono oto Tomare!

Chapter 1

PLEASE SUPPORT THE AUTHOR
BY BUYING THE MANGA WHEN/IF
IT'S AVAILABLE IN YOUR REGION

TRANSLATOR: HEMONY & SIULIZ
PROOFREADER: SOOTEH
CLEANER: CATNIP
TYPESETTER: LUTYRA
QCER: HEMONY

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Kono oto Tomare!

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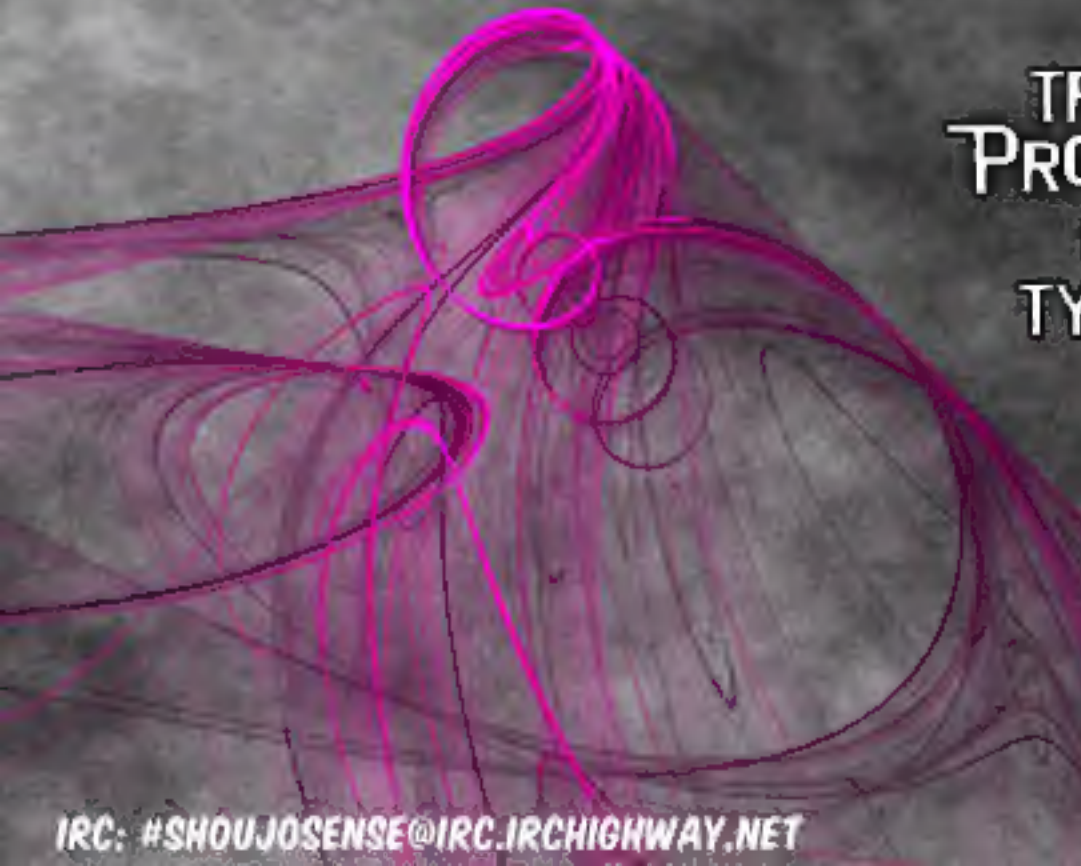

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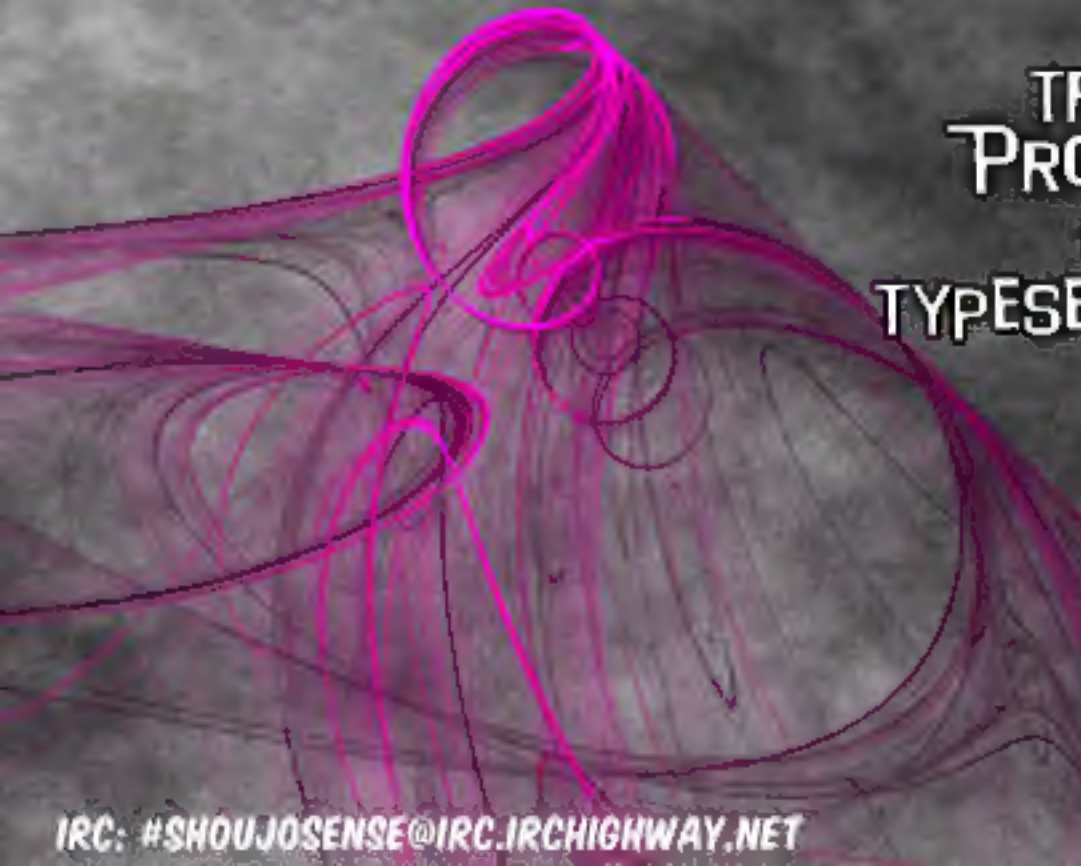

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